

Social trends: 1

Nation of greater material wealth but less emotional stability

By Nicholas Timmins

A nation with more divorce, more illegitimate births, more people living alone, and a wider income gap between unemployed and employed families emerge today from *Social Trends*, the Government's annual view of British life.

But the Central Statistical Office's compendium also shows a small rise in real incomes last year and more people owning their houses and deep freezers, colour televisions, dishwashers, washing machines and cars.

The statistics show a steady rise in illegitimate births, to 1.4 per cent of the total in England and Wales last year against 6 per cent in 1961, and among teenage mothers the number of illegitimate births outstripped legitimate births for the first time: 29,000 against 27,000. Many of these, however, were jointly registered by both parents 46 per cent against 34 per cent in 1975.

More people are living together before marriage: 21 per cent of partners up to the age of 34 marrying for the first time in the period 1979 to 1981, against

8 per cent between 1970 and 1974.

The marriage rate has continued to decline, but the divorce rate after dipping in 1981 rose again last year to 139,000, almost double the number of a decade earlier.

The desire to try again remains common, however. Nearly a quarter of women aged under 35 who separated between 1970 and 1974 had remarried within three years, and 52 per cent had done so within six years.

The increase in divorce and illegitimate births means the proportion of lone parents with dependent children has doubled, from 2.5 per cent in 1961 to almost 5 per cent last year.

The percentage of people living alone has also increased in the same period, from 4 per cent to 9 per cent. That rise is chiefly due to the increase in widows and widowers among those over 65, whose numbers are expected to remain fairly steady until the year 2000, but with a steep increase in those aged over 75 and 85.

Nearly half of women aged

over 65 now live alone, against a third in 1959. The number of men over 65 living alone has almost doubled to 21 per cent. "Living alone does not necessarily equate with loneliness, but almost certainly it tends to," the report says.

While real spending in pensioner households has risen by 40 per cent since 1959, the gains made by pensioners have almost certainly failed to match those enjoyed by the rest of the population, the report says in a special section on the elderly.

However, "it is now unusual to find an elderly person without a television set or a refrigerator or a washing machine and more than half have a telephone, a rare piece of apparatus in the homes of elderly people in 1959".

The report also shows that unemployment tends increasingly to be concentrated in families. Between 1976 and 1982, it has become increasingly less likely for the unemployed head of a household to have another worker in the family, while for the employed it has become more likely.

This is partly because in the same period it became more likely for a man who had a job to have a wife who was also working.

"One result of these trends is that the gap between the average gross income of households with unemployed heads and those of households with employed heads has widened in recent years."

In April this year, there were three million unemployed of whom a fifth had been out of work for more than two years and another fifth had been jobless for more than a year.

The survey also shows that Britain's record as a nation of animal lovers is in decline, that people are sending more greeting cards but fewer social letters, and that the nation is becoming noisier at home.

Relatively fewer households kept pets in 1982 than in 1959 with only dogs maintaining their popularity, while cats, budgerigars and other pets lost favour.

Social Trends 14, Central Statistical Office (Stationery Office, £19.95).

British at play: Hard-drinking sportsmen

By Kenneth Gosling

Leisure last year was dominated by outdoor activities, more people taking part in sports such as aquatics, swimming and tennis than going to greyhound or horse races, football or cricket matches.

Many so-called minority sports were much more popular than in 1971; badminton, for example, had 109,000 club players against 66,000 in 1971, while there were 50,000 amateur boxers, an increase of 20,000.

When Britons were not chasing shrews or knocking the stuffing out of each other, they were spending most of their spare cash on drink, topping the list in all income ranges.

As they enjoyed their favourite tipple, they spent less time watching television and more listening to the radio.

The report says the largest increase between 1976 and 1982 was in listening to independent local radio, which doubled over the period, reflecting not only increased popularity but the rise in the number of local stations.

But BBC national radio networks still accounted for most listening time. Radio 4 was the most popular service with 15.4 per cent of the

population aged four years and over listening on an average day. Independent radio had the second largest audience, with 13.7 per cent.

In June this year the average television viewer watched BBC1 for nearly an hour a day, BBC2 for 20 minutes, independent television for just under an hour and 10 minutes, and Channel 4 for only six minutes.

Going out to be entertained proved less popular. Only 60

million cinema tickets were sold in 1982, about 65 per cent down on 1971.

A full house at bingo was also becoming rarer. The number of clubs fell every year from 1978; in that year there were 1,775; last year 1,536. The amount staked on bingo fell from £491m to £464m between 1981 and 1982.

Gambling attracted fewer people. Although the estimated amount of money staked in gambling clubs in the year ended August 1982 was £1,007m compared with £930m the previous year, the number of clubs had fallen from 126 to 117.

Fewer holidays were taken last year but more of them were spent abroad: up from 13 million to 14 million. Spain remained the most popular destination overseas, its share of total foreign holidays rising from 26 per cent in 1981 to 30 per cent last year.

The only destination to show a substantial fall in its share was the United States.

And although, next to alcohol, people spent most of their spare cash on television, radio and musical instrument households with gross weekly income of £240 or more spent a greater amount on their holidays.

The British continued to buy, borrow and read books; but they also used libraries to take out video tapes when they became available. More than 14 million issues were made in 1981-82.

Tomorrow: Education. What people earn, page 17.

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The Princess of Wales during a visit yesterday to the Queen Elizabeth II Silver Jubilee Activities Centre at Bursledon, near Southampton, which provides sports for disabled people.

Sales boom may save post offices

By Bill Johnston, Electronics Correspondent

The success of counter services created by the Post Office in the past year, including the sale of bus passes, travellers' cheques and items from mail order catalogues, could relieve many of the post offices threatened with closure because of unprofitability.

The new services will be crucial to the Post Office's decision to close 1,609 of its 9,533 town sub-post offices. The decisions on these findings, the result of a three-month Post Office study, are to be made in the new year. The survey was the first comprehensive one on post offices to be conducted in 20 years.

About 269 main offices are believed to be marginal in their commercial performance, with 172 making a loss.

More than 2.5 million bus passes are now being sold every year through post offices. In London one million pensioners' passes are sold, while about the same number for all age groups are being sold in West Yorkshire.

The Post Office has introduced the new services to compensate for revenue lost through the decision two years ago to pay social security benefits directly by cheque.

Customers can now order goods from some mail order catalogues at post offices using the Travellers' service, and extension of Girobank.

Items advertised in special television campaigns can now be purchased at post offices through a service called Tele-shop. These goods include general household products and have been advertised in the Grampian, Border, Tyne-Tees, Yorkshire and Television South-West regions.

Sterling travellers' cheques and a photographic service called Bonusprint are also available in most of the 20,000 post offices.

Diana Dors postpones writ over fan mail

Miss Diana Dors yesterday adjourned her application for an injunction against her employers at TV-am over 3,000 fan mail letters for one week, in the hope that they can settle the matter out of court.

She had issued a High Court writ for the company to return the letters, many of which requested a diet calculator she used in her recent "fight against flesh" on the *Good Morning Britain* show.

Miss Dors, aged 52, said outside the Law Courts in London yesterday: "I hope that it can all be settled amicably. I am very sorry that they kept the letters."



Diana Dors: Dispute with TV-am

The dispute started when Miss Dors gave the brand name of the calculator, which she said was her "secret weapon" which helped her to lose 54lb.

She said yesterday: "I have no financial interest in the calculator at all. But TV-am, who sponsored my diet, said I was breaking IBA rules by illegally advertising in normal air time and the letters belonged to them."

"I have apologized to them if I was breaking any rules and even offered to resign but they said 'no'. They told me my show had hoisted them in the ratings. I shall be going to work as normal this Friday. Nobody has told me not to."

Less bread eaten at home

Consumption of bread in British homes has fallen by more than 40 per cent in the past 30 years, although 10 million large loaves are still eaten daily, according to a report published yesterday.

In Britain consumption of bread a week has fallen from 56oz in 1954 to less than 32oz last year. During this time, however, the population has increased from 51 million to 55 million and "considerably more bread is now eaten outside the home", according to the Federation of Bakers.

"The amount of bread eaten in canteens, cafes, restaurants, pubs and so on has been growing over recent years and may now be equivalent to about 20 per cent of the household figure," the report said.

The Welsh eat more bread than anyone else in Britain, consuming 36.8oz a head a week, followed by the Scots at 35.2oz. The least bread is eaten in the South-east and in East Anglia - 27.6oz a head. Brown bread accounts for less than 18 per cent of total sales.

Coward plays for Radio 4

Five Noel Coward plays, *Blithe Spirit*, *Hay Fever*, *Brighton Boat Race*, *Private Lives* and *Designing for Living*, are among Radio 4 Christmas programmes, announced yesterday.

Repeats of the popular *Quote, Unquote*, *Desert Island Discs*, *Just a Minute* and *Down Your Way* programmes will be heard each weekday over the holiday periods. They are among the most requested shows, the BBC said.

Charities given bank building

National Westminster Bank is giving a five-storey building in Brixton, south London, valued at £500,000, to a group of charities to be used for helping and educating disabled people. The bank had used the building as a computer centre.

The donation is the largest single allocation from the bank's £1.2m inner city development programme which will be fully assigned by next April.

Fire kills baby

Julie McKnight, aged one, was killed and her two sisters were injured when a fire swept a flat in Lower Line Road, Oldham, Greater Manchester, yesterday.

Hansard goes on computer

By Bill Johnston, Electronics Correspondent

The text of the House of Commons Official Report, *Hansard*, the record of parliamentary debates and business, is being made available on computer terminals.

The service offered by the British computer software (programs) group, Seicon, is an extension of the system that the company began in late 1980 listing indexes of *Hansard* entries. That system acquired the acronym Polis (Parliamentary On-Line Information Service).

Seicon has more than 100 clients outside the Commons attached to its network. They are in central and local government, the trade and professional institutions, the media, business, and academic life.

According to the computer group, a market survey in the autumn of last year indicated that there was an appreciable demand by those who used the index service to have access to the full text on screen.

The text available is intended to start on November 3, 1982, when the last session of Parliament began.

The group's computer is based in Milton Keynes in Buckinghamshire and the *Hansard* files will be updated each day.

Conflict over 'fresh' milk

A dairy farmer who labelled as "fresh" milk supplied straight from the cow to the customer has been told he may lose his licence unless he removes the offending word.

Mr Hugh Blackburne was warned by the Ministry of Agriculture after he began to sell milk that was not bought by the big dairies from his farm in Hales, Surrey. It was labelled "Fresh Jersey milk" and "Raw and unpasteurized". The ministry ruled that Mr Blackburne's milk could not be called "fresh".

Mr Blackburne said: "It seems a bit drastic for them to threaten to withdraw my licence, but they always say it is due to EEC regulations."

"What annoys me is that they say milk straight from the cow, put in containers and sold immediately is not fresh, but that the same milk when taken away, pasteurized and delivered two days later, is."

Mr Blackburne has submitted a different label to the ministry which still describes the product as "fresh", but also includes the words "untreated milk".

Meat import warning to shoppers

By John Young, Agriculture Correspondent

The Ministry of Agriculture has issued a warning that people returning from Christmas shopping expeditions abroad must declare all uncooked meats and meat products to Customs.

There have been a number of outbreaks of swine fever and other animal diseases on the Continent and it is feared that products which are quite safe for human consumption could spread infection to Britain.

Meat imported commercially must carry veterinary certification that it comes from disease-free areas and healthy animals. But stores and supermarkets in continental Channel ports are expecting a record number of British visitors in the next two weeks, many of whom may be tempted to buy things like bacon, ham, salami and sausage.

There is a ban on these

products from all countries except France, and a total prohibition on poultrymeat, offal and uncooked pork.

Although there is a standard allowance of one kilogram of other meats and one kilogram of meat products, the ministry would like to discourage people from bringing in any meat at all because it does not travel well and may be a health hazard.

Wife sees heart-lung transplant patient

By Thomson Prentice, Medical Reporter

Less than 24 hours after his operation, Lars Ljungberg, aged 32, took a breath with his new lungs yesterday and waved to his wife to signal the initial success of Britain's first combined heart and lungs transplant. Later she was able to join him at his bedside and they spoke briefly.

Mr Magdi Yacoub, who carried out the operation at Harefield Hospital, West London, with a team of almost twenty surgeons, technicians and nurses, said: "Progress is as

good as we hoped it would be. We are very pleased."

Mr Ljungberg, a Swedish journalist, had waited six weeks at the hospital until donor organs for the operation were found on Monday.

Mr Ljungberg was able to breathe yesterday without the aid of a ventilator for the first time since the operation.

The operation cost £20,000. It was paid for by Mr Ljungberg's local health authority in Sweden where heart transplants are not permitted.

Straw burning code urged

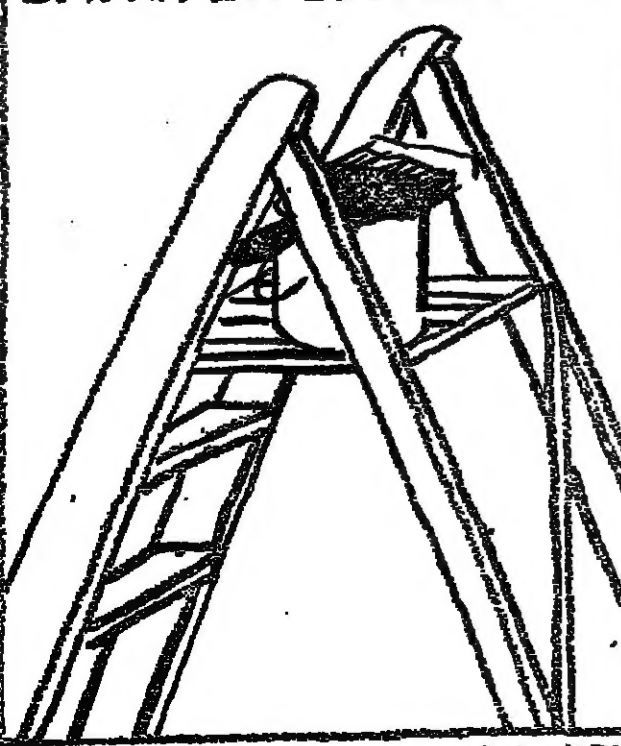
Landowners yesterday called on the Government to publish before Christmas its new model by-law on straw burning to ensure there is enough time for local authorities to enforce it during next year's harvest.

Mr John Norris, of the 50,000-member Country Landowners' Association, said that

without straw burning there would be a drop in the proportion of winter sown cereals which had been responsible for record yields.

"It is a practice which has therefore been of great economic benefit to cereal growers and its continuation is crucial to successful cereal production,

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Patched-up compromise would have been unsatisfactory

EEC SUMMIT

It was regrettable that the European Council of heads of state and government meeting in Athens earlier this week was not able to make the necessary progress for the next stage of the Community's development.

Mrs Margaret Thatcher, the Prime Minister, said in a statement to the Commons:

I had made it clear (she said) that I would not consider an increase in our resources unless there was agreement on a fair sharing of the burden and an effective control of agricultural and other expenditure. There was no such agreement and therefore for the United Kingdom the question of an increase of the Community's resources did not arise.

Mrs Thatcher said: At its previous meeting in Stuttgart the European Council had agreed that it was essential at this stage to consider the long-term future of the European Community and to tackle certain fundamental problems - in particular, agricultural surpluses; effective control of Community spending; and a fair distribution of the burden of financing the Community.

We were all agreed that the Stuttgart package had to be taken as a whole and that decisions on each item depended on agreement on the rest.

Unfortunately, the Community was not ready at Athens to take the necessary decisions. A number of member states were unable to follow past practice and adopt a number of unsatisfactory compromises.

On agriculture, the main issues discussed at Athens were price policy and the limitation of open market surpluses; action to curb milk surpluses; import and export policy; the proposed oil and gas tax; and monetary compensatory amounts.

There was considerable difference of view on price policy, on the volume of milk that might be subject to quota and surplus and on various requests and proposals from some countries for exemptions.

The UK is among those member states which consider that a rigorous price policy is essential; that any other arrangements for milk such as a surplus should be non-discriminatory and that the Community should need to be dealt with as well. Four member states, including the United Kingdom, made it clear that the

proposal for an oil and gas tax was unacceptable.

On monetary compensatory amounts, the differences between France and Germany were not resolved.

With regard to the unfair budgetary burden, there was some recognition that a lasting solution must be found which would put limits on the net contributions of the member states - limits which are related to ability to pay. This would be implemented by correcting the VAT contribution of the member state concerned in the following year.

The majority of countries wished to establish a lasting system on the above lines which would be part and parcel of any decision on new resources. Unfortunately, although preparatory negotiations on this subject have been considerable, progress was not all member states agreed to this approach and, accordingly, no decisions could be taken.

Similarly, with the problem of increasing Community expenditure, the will to control it effectively was just not present at the Athens meeting.

Even the ideas recently advanced by the French Government were not accepted by all countries as a basis for discussion. I made it clear that there must be strict guidelines for agricultural spending which must be embodied in the budgetary procedures of the Community.

Unless the agricultural and financial issues can be resolved, the resources for new policies such as cooperation in research and development are very limited indeed - though many of us recognise that the long run they are very important and that room should be made for them.

International questions such as Cyprus and the Lebanon were discussed in plenary session but were, of course, much discussed outside it. No official statements were issued on these or any other matters.

Mr Neil Kinnock, Leader of the Opposition (Labour, Lab), yesterday we were given what we interpreted as a genuine undertaking that we could look forward to a statement from the Prime Minister in the House of Commons on the review of the British presence in Beirut.

No such statement has been forthcoming in this statement. There is great concern, especially in the wake of the Lebanon crisis, that the British presence in Beirut has been knocked out and that British forces have been under fire.

She tried to lay the blame for the unmitigated failure of the Athens

summit on everyone but herself. We are used to that from the banana skin Prime Minister. On her return from the Stuttgart summit in late June she said she expected great success at Athens on budgetary reform, equitable sharing of burdens and control of expenditure.

She is quoted in today's newspapers as saying that the deepening crisis will sharpen our partners' minds and that they will be brought to order by the Brussels meeting in March. What does she think will change between Athens in December and Brussels in March? Why should the French change their position in those months? Does she really think that fundamental

progress by the time of Brussels by agreeing us that there can be no question of their coming here to ask for any increase on our own resources VAT contribution. Will she insist in the future that we must have made there will be a reduction in British farm prices to reduce the cost to the common agricultural policy?

Will she declare her determination to withhold all or part of our contribution until agreement is reached upon fundamental changes in the Common Market which will remove the persistent disadvantages of British membership? Unless she is prepared to take such action now of her posturing will impress the British people.

Mrs Thatcher: On Lebanon, we believe that we must continue to consult the countries who are also involved in the multinational force and that decisions must be taken together. The British contingent is very much valued by all parts of the multinational force. They will be upset, even dismayed, if our very valuable force, small though it may be, were to be pulled out.

There would be considerable repercussions on all among the various communities in the Lebanon and the Arab and Jewish communities beyond but within the Alliance if there were to be any suggestion that we should unilaterally pull out or be thought in any way to be leading a retreat. We will not.

Mr Kinnock has no idea of how difficult it is to get agreement between 10 countries when discussing the whole of the matter under the purview of the European Community. When you are doing a fundamental job you have to get complete unanimity among all the partners. Their interests are very different.

Some of those who are great beneficiaries of the Community wish to carry on exactly as they are. I doubt whether the Common Market will be in real financial difficulty until the autumn, but the need to invest and to reduce unemployment across the whole of Europe?

In his autumn financial statement the Chancellor budgeted for £420m or a 50 per cent increase in United Kingdom spending on agricultural intervention next year. Was the signal given by the Chancellor deliberate or was it sheer stupidity?

Does he not recognise that the negotiating position at the Athens summit? So not all these considerations leave us worse off now than when she went to Athens?

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There would be considerable repercussions on all among the various communities in the Lebanon and the Arab and Jewish communities beyond but within the Alliance if there were to be any suggestion that we should unilaterally pull out or be thought in any way to be leading a retreat. We will not.

Mr Kinnock has no idea of how difficult it is to get agreement between 10 countries when discussing the whole of the matter under the purview of the European Community. When you are doing a fundamental job you have to get complete unanimity among all the partners. Their interests are very different.

Some of those who are great beneficiaries of the Community wish to carry on exactly as they are. I doubt whether the Common Market will be in real financial difficulty until the autumn, but the need to invest and to reduce unemployment across the whole of Europe?

In his autumn financial statement the Chancellor budgeted for £420m or a 50 per cent increase in United Kingdom spending on agricultural intervention next year. Was the signal given by the Chancellor deliberate or was it sheer stupidity?

Does he not recognise that the negotiating position at the Athens summit? So not all these considerations leave us worse off now than when she went to Athens?

She can make much greater

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Government determined to get the right answers

EEC FINANCE

The conclusions of the EEC summit in Athens have, of course, been disappointing to the Government, but a solution to the problems had to be found. Sir Geoffrey Howe, Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Relations, said during question time in the Commons.

Sir Geoffrey Howe had said that the conditions in which the British Government would consider an increase in our resources were unchanged since the Prime Minister had said that in June. Before any increase can be considered (he said) there must be effective control of agricultural and other expenditure and an arrangement to ensure a fair sharing of the Community's financial burden.

The Prime Minister confirmed that in Athens yesterday (Tuesday).

Mr Tony Marlow (Northampton, North, C): Would it not be sensible to concentrate on one issue at a time and delay discussion of the entry of Spain and Portugal until the EEC has sorted out the United Kingdom contribution and the common agricultural policy? The Government should make clear that until the CAP has been sorted out, there can be no increase in our own resources.

Sir Geoffrey Howe: Obviously the manner and order in which these subjects are discussed will be decided in the light of the failure to reach agreement in Athens.

Mr Robin Cook, chief Opposition spokesman on European and Community affairs: Is Athens the Government failed to get any of the conditions it set out for an increase in our resources?

Will he confirm that the proposed modulation of VAT discussed at Athens would not meet the British position on budgetary matters since it leaves unaltered the customs levy and ignores the import levies which are the real cause of British disadvantage in the budget?

Will he tell us under present circumstances there is no prospect of Parliament being asked to increase the levies paid by the British people to finance agriculture expenditure which is going yet again to go in for a humiliating climb-down on this issue?

Sir Geoffrey Howe: There is no question of this Government making a humiliating climb-down on this or any other issue. There was widespread recognition throughout negotiations at Athens of the need to ensure fundamental reform of the CAP.

There was before us a French document recognizing the need for control of Community expenditure, so the issue was plainly under discussion. Unfortunately that will did not go far enough to secure sufficiently effective control. That is

adequate relief if our contribution is operated solely by abatement of contributions of VAT. But modulation of VAT can take various forms which would not achieve that.

It would be wrong for the House to conclude that there is no prospect of resolution of these important questions, of not being prepared to accept this fact. A British Government has to be resolved.

Labour MP: What? Sir Geoffrey Howe: It does not lie within the power of the British Government.

It is time that Mr Cook, instead of making back and forth pressure at the absence of agreement, recognized the importance of our achieving a way forward on these matters and recognizing, above all, that the British Government's position is clear in its determination to get proper answers to these questions.

Later, Sir Geoffrey Howe said that the Government was accepting a humiliating climb-down on the CAP following the Athens summit.

Mr John Maclean (Glasgow, Cathcart, Lab): Since it is clear that France and other countries are not prepared to accept the most minor change in the CAP, how on earth does the

one of the reasons we were not prepared to accept that conclusion. Mr Anthony Beaumont-Dark (Birmingham, Selly Oak, C): Would not one of the best mechanisms of controlling the CAP be to stop farmers growing food we do not want at prices we cannot afford?

Sir Geoffrey Howe: That is a shrewd and perceptive observation. (Laughter) Control of agricultural surpluses directed particularly at milk was one of the issues on which we and other states were prepared to agree, but agreement did not spread far enough yesterday.

Mr Ivan Evans (Cynon Valley, Lab): There is scandalous destruction of fruit, vegetables and dairy food. When is the Government going to take a stand not only over increasing our resources but stopping any resources going into the Common Market unless this is sorted out?

Sir Geoffrey Howe: Agricultural protection regimes in many other countries have unintended effects of the kind he describes. That is one of the reasons why our stand is directed to secure effective control of the growth of agricultural expenditure and a proper regime within the Community to tackle precisely problems of that kind.

Mr Edward Taylor (South East, C): Most of us would accept that the Government has done well to secure by making it clear that CAP expenditure should be contained and controlled. But there are quite a number of us who have listened to the debate and all the statements and still have not the slightest idea of how precisely the Government think that containing or restraining should actually be done. (Laughter)

Sir Geoffrey Howe: The essence of the approach is that there must be a proper limit on the size of expenditure on agriculture policy accompanied by effective controls.

Mr Robin Cook, chief Opposition spokesman: Is this Government so committed to effective control over agriculture, why is the Government not seeking for a 15 per cent increase in expenditure on agriculture intervention?

Sir Geoffrey Howe: There is no conclusion on what the outcome of these negotiations will be. The House should be in no doubt after the debate last week that one of the conditions for a successful conclusion of the Stuttgart-Athens agenda is achieving effective control in the rate of agricultural expenditure.

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Commons (2.30): Appropriation (No 3) (Northern Ireland) Order and Northern Ireland (Emergency Provisions) Act 1972 (Continuance) (No 2) Order. Lords (3): Debate on television the House. Debate on gas and electricity prices.

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Anxieties of MPs drawn to attention of US

MIDDLE EAST

It was important for all participants in the multinational peacekeeping force in the Lebanon to act in a spirit of co-operation and to put their 'crisis objectives' in the foreground.

Sir Geoffrey Howe, Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, told the Commons.

He avoided discussing with colleagues any of the details of the mission which came from both sides of the House and rebuked Mr Denis Healey, chief Opposition spokesman on foreign affairs, who said the Foreign Secretary had been let down by the garden path by the US Administration on the Lebanon just as he had over Grenada.

Sir Geoffrey Howe said the lack of progress towards a comprehensive peace settlement in the Middle East was deeply disappointing.

We believe, he said, that President Reagan's proposals of September 1, 1982 still offer a realistic basis for negotiation.

The parties directly concerned have the primary responsibility for reaching a settlement. But we shall continue to play an active role in urging them to settle their differences by negotiation.

Mr Denis Watkins (Westbury, C), who began the debate on the subject of the most effective ways to defuse the present highly dangerous situation in the Middle East would be for the European Community to sponsor a conference at which all the relevant parties, and both the United States and the Soviet Union, would participate.

Can the Foreign Secretary do something to persuade our American friends that this is a reality? Sir Geoffrey Howe: I certainly take note of the suggestion. It is important that every possible alternative should be carefully examined. I am not sure that the Foreign Secretary would be the best person to make that point.

Mr John Cartwright (Woolwich, SDP): Does the Foreign Secretary still believe that there can be no lasting peace in the Middle East that is not based on the principle of self-determination? Sir Geoffrey Howe: The principle of self-determination is a reality. It is a reality that the Palestinians have the same right to a homeland as every other people on this earth.

If this is still the policy of the Government, what steps is it taking to secure the withdrawal of the Palestinian people? Sir Geoffrey Howe: We have always acknowledged that the Palestinians have to play a part in negotiations on their future. We still believe that

it would be a serious mistake if they were to turn their back on the possibility of a peaceful solution as a result of the recent upheavals, and that they should be prepared to let Israel live in peace.

Mr Peter Temple-Marie (Leamington, C): There is plenty of room for doubt about the deepening American involvement in the internal affairs of the Lebanon, by far the most important priority of this House is to defend the multi-racial interest in the continuing strength of the western alliance bedded on this country's alliance with the US.

Sir Geoffrey Howe: It is important that even where there may be differences between members of the alliance we do not forget the fundamental importance of that to the West and this country.

Mr Healey: The US administration has a certain obligation to respect the importance of the alliance in the decision it takes on issues in other parts of the world.

President Reagan torpedoed his own proposals for a Palestinian settlement which he made in September 1982 by making with the Israeli government what its Prime Minister described as a military alliance and by using military force against Syria in the Lebanon in

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Nuclear reactor will be economic disaster, professor tells inquiry

Electricity will cost more if the Central Electricity Generating Board builds a pressurized water reactor (PWR) at Sizewell, the public inquiry into the board's £1200m proposal was told yesterday by Professor Jim Jeffrey, an expert on energy economics.

Professor Jeffrey, Professor of Crystallography at London University, claimed the board's economic case for the PWR was invalid on a number of key assumptions. If Sizewell B was built, it would generate electricity at a considerable loss.

Basing his analysis on a detailed examination of the board's calculations, Professor Jeffrey said: "In view of the uncertainties and improba-

bilities of the board's assumptions about future conditions it would seem wise to wait until a new station is actually needed before deciding what kind it should be."

Professor Jeffrey, who was giving evidence to the inquiry at Sizewell, Suffolk, on behalf of the Sizewell B Association, said the board's economic case was suspect because it required a reversal of the rapid decline in the rate of increase in electricity demand; it needed a large increase in the price of coal; and because the board's comparison of the costs of nuclear and coal-fired stations did not take into account the full price of reprocessing spent fuel, radioactive waste disposal or the decommissioning of nuclear reactors.

The PWR was likely to be a "lifetime economic disaster", he said.

The board, he said, had also overestimated the savings it could make across the generating system by using nuclear energy because the displaced coal and oil would not be as expensive as it predicted.

Even if the board's assumptions were correct, electricity costs from a PWR would be higher than at present for the first 20 years of the power station's 35-year life.

The inquiry continues today.

Prisoner to challenge parole ban in court

The Home Secretary's ruling that certain prisoners jailed for more than five years cannot be granted parole until a few months before the end of their sentences is to be challenged in the High Court.

Edward Findlay, who is serving seven years for robbery, was given permission by Mr Justice Woolf in the High Court yesterday to proceed with a test case.

Mr Edward Fitzgerald, for Findlay, who is at Long Lartin Prison, Hereford and Worcester, said they wanted the court to review the Home Secretary's policy decision last month that any prisoner serving a fixed term sentence of more than five years for offences of violence should be granted parole only a few months before the end of his sentence, unless the circumstances were genuinely exceptional.

They seek a declaration that the policy is unlawful and contravenes the Criminal Justice Act, 1967.

They also seek a declaration that Findlay is entitled to have his case for parole considered on its merits, and an order prohibiting the Home Secretary from applying the new policy.

The judge said it was a case that should be argued fully.

Fixed term prisoners are usually eligible for parole after completion of a third of their sentences or 12 months, whichever is longer.

Christmas card bonanza

Season's greetings 1,300 million times

By Staff Reporters

A record 1,300 million Christmas cards, almost two dozen for every British man, woman and child, are likely to be posted this year, the greeting card industry's trade association said yesterday.

Last year, 1,160 million Christmas cards were sold at a cost of £280m. Of those, 240 million were charity cards, which raised £30m.

The charities' share of the market is expected to increase by between 10 and 30 per cent this year, largely because of more professional marketing techniques.

Where once cards were sold in small shops or from catalogues posted with samples, the public is now inundated with glossy colour catalogues, mail order brochures and billboards that are the climax of a year's campaign.

The Imperial Cancer Research Fund believes its estimated £200,000 turnover of cards and gifts this year is because of a more aggressive public relations campaign that has included gift sales and publicity about its research.

Charities are also making use of mass mailing lists and computerized record-keeping and are seeking advice from advertising agencies.

Christmas cards account for almost two-thirds of card sales, but only a third of all greeting card spending.

The average Christmas card now costs 7p, although those sold for charity are usually more expensive. The profit margin on all greeting cards averages 40 per cent.

The prediction of record sales this year comes from the Greeting Card and Calendar Association, which can offer a wealth of interesting facts, as well as sales figures.

For example, it reports that the Prime Minister sends about 2,000 Christmas cards each year, while President Reagan "signs" nearly 60,000.

The tiniest Christmas card was allegedly inscribed on a grain of rice and sent to the Prince of Wales in 1929, while the most valuable must have been that sent by the Gaskwar of Baroda to an Englishwoman of his affections.

Made of ivory and decorated with 44 diamonds, the card took six months to make and was said to be worth £500,000 eighty years ago.

The first Christmas card, according to the association, was devised by Sir Henry Cole in 1843 because he had forgotten to send the traditional Christmas letter to his friends. Mechanically printed, but hand-tinted, cards struck him as a reasonable last-minute substitute; the left-over cards were sold in Old Bond Street at a shilling a time, and the rest is history.

India lifts ban on Sikh editor

By David Cross

Mr Tarsem Singh Purewal, editor of a leading Sikh newspaper in Britain, who was arrested and deported from India during a visit to his dying mother last month, is being allowed to return on compassionate grounds. But the Indian Government's decision to allow him an entry permit for two weeks has come too late for him to return to his mother's bedside. She died on November 26 after an operation for cancer of the pancreas.

Mr Purewal, who owns and edits the *Des Pardes* weekly which has a circulation of 35,000 in Britain, northern Europe and Canada, heard from the Foreign Office in London yesterday that he would be allowed to visit Chandigarh from tomorrow until December 23. The Foreign Office got in touch with the Indian authorities after publication of details of Mr Purewal's deportation in *The Times*.

India has given no reasons for Mr Purewal's deportation although it is thought that it resents criticism of its conduct in his newspaper.

Mr Purewal said in London last night that he regretted that he was unable to be at his mother's bedside when she died. Because he was dragged away from the hospital ward by armed police, his mother had believed that he had been murdered by the authorities, he said.

Wheat production sets new record

By John Young, Agriculture Correspondent

The 1983 United Kingdom cereal harvest totalled 21,370,000 tonnes, about 5 per cent down on last year, but still the second highest ever, according to the first complete official estimates published by the Home Grown Cereals Authority.

Wheat production set a new record of 10,626,000 tonnes, and the average yield was up from 6.2 to 6.4 tonnes a hectare. Yields are now some 40 per cent higher than the average throughout the 1970s partly because of a swing away from

milling varieties towards high yielding feed varieties.

The total area planted to barley was down by 70,000 hectares, and average yield down from 4.93 to 4.66 tonnes a hectare, although the yield was still better than in 1980. The swing away from spring barley into winter varieties continues, in spite of the higher costs involved, because the winter crops are better able to withstand climatic vagaries like this year's very wet spring and exceptionally dry summer.

UK CEREAL PRODUCTION 1982 AND 1983

		ENGLAND & WALES		SCOTLAND		N.IRELAND	
		1982	1983	1982	1983	1982	1983
WHEAT	Area	1,822	1,543	40	47	1.0	1.5
	Yield	6.18	6.40	7.20	6.39	5.83	5.71
	Prod	10,020	10,515	290	300	5.8	8.4
BARLEY	Area	1,719	1,855	455	451	47.1	48.3
	Yield	4.55	4.75	4.52	4.38	4.26	4.30
	Prod	8,514	7,861	2,240	1,966	200	196
OATS	Area	829	842	44*	65*	4.2	4.9
	Yield	890	813	411	386	42.9	41.4
	Prod	738	683	183	252	19	27
TOTAL (a)	Area	3,452	3,391	525	524	51.7	51.4
	Yield	19,037	18,790	2,856	2,360	217	219
	Prod	19,037	18,790	2,856	2,360	217	219

Winter barley planting for Scotland is December census figures. The complete June census records the winter/spring split only in England, Wales and N. Ireland.

(a) Total cereals include rye and mixed corn. Source: Home Grown Cereals Authority.

Charities told to shun politics

Voluntary organizations should keep out of politics and resist government interference the National Council for Voluntary Organizations has told its 360 members.

The council says there has been a 63 per cent increase in government grants to charities and voluntary organizations in recent years but it has been accompanied by more complaints about increasing government pressure on their work.

Guidance issued by the council says organizations should not attempt to influence the electoral process but should "assert and exercise their freedom to advocate changes or continuity in public policy, programmes and laws".

Organizations should distinguish between "arm's length" support from government and "cont acts" with government.

Headlines complaint rejected

Headlines in a *Daily Mail* election feature which spoke of Conservatives winning seats and Labour grabbing them were not misleading, the Press Council ruled today. Although it would have been more obviously impartial to have used the same word the newspaper was not bound to be impartial, the council says.

It rejected a complaint from Mr Barry Coppock, of Parkhill Road, Bexley, Kent, that the paper misleadingly and unfairly slanted the wording of headlines over similar sets of tables.

The managing editor, Mr Gordon Cowan, told Mr Coppock that there was nothing significant in the use of the word "grab". The newspaper merely wanted not to repeat the word "win", which had appeared in two headlines on the same page.

Reith lecturer boosts open government lobby

By Peter Hennessy

Sir Douglas Wass, the former Permanent Secretary to the Treasury, came out in favour of open government last night with a fervour that could only embarrass the Prime Minister and Sir Robert Armstrong, Secretary of the Cabinet, with whom he served as Joint Head of the Home Civil Service until last Easter.

In the course of the 1983 BBC Reith lectures, Sir Douglas floated the idea of an external audit on open government which would monitor ministers' fulfilment of pledges to be more forthcoming with Parliament and the public.

The system would need an audit staff with full access to official files. The auditors would be empowered to alert Parliament in cases of unjustified suppression.

Ministers could be forced to defend their decisions to withhold information in closed session before a Commons select committee. Such a system would be costly to operate but

Sir Douglas said it merited serious study.

Sir Douglas' remarks, although they stopped well short of advocating a law to compel Whitehall to open up, represent a boost to the freedom of information lobby which is about to undergo a rebirth when Mr Des Wilson launches his 1984 campaign next month.

At Mrs Margaret Thatcher's behest, Sir Douglas' former colleague, Sir Robert Armstrong, has been trying to stem the pressure for more openness. He has circulated reminders in Whitehall about Britain's secrecy laws and conventions in an attempt to plug leaks.

Sir Douglas offered Sir Robert some comfort last night, however. He condemned leaks unequivocally and upbraided the press for being unscrupulous in its use of them.

But the deliberate publication of more information to raise the quality of public debate was necessary if government was to operate efficiently and responsibly, Sir Douglas added.



Gordon Selfridge helping to construct the Selfridge roof garden 1935.

How British do you have to be to contribute to Britain?

Gordon Selfridge was an American retailer who came to Britain when he was 49 years old.

His investment in a department store in London made his name a household word throughout Britain. The Selfridge name is familiar today in high streets across the country.

In 1935 he celebrated the Silver Jubilee of King George V by adding a roof-garden to his Oxford Street store.

You don't have to have British parents to contribute to Britain.

IBM came to Britain in 1951 and has been investing here ever since.

We opened our first factory at Greenock on the Clyde and added a second at Havant on the Hamp-

shire coast. Together, these provide 4,500 jobs, and their products are exported to 80 countries in Europe, Africa and the Middle East.

IBM has also invested in British research and development. In 1958 we bought a country house near Winchester and established there one of IBM's largest development laboratories in Europe. A laboratory where British scientists have developed IBM's first general purpose colour display and first intelligent terminal.

In the Midlands we established a centre that aids businesses by showing how computers help design new products and speed them to the manufacturing floor.

And on the South Bank of the Thames we have

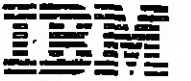
just moved into a new office building where customers can learn what computers can do to help make their businesses more competitive and government more efficient.

All this investment in the last 10 years alone has totalled almost £1,000 million.

Like Gordon Selfridge we do not claim to have British parents.

But our investment in Britain is as varied as a department store.

- 1982 investment - £119 million.
- Britain's ninth largest exporter.
- 15,000 British jobs.
- Two British factories.
- 11,000 British suppliers.



Brother of Colombian President released

Bogota - A two-minute silence was observed throughout Colombia at noon yesterday as part of a national demonstration for peace in a country torn by both political subversion and violent crime (Geoffrey Matthews writes).

Sensing the national mood, leftist guerrillas released the brother of President Betancur, Betancur whom they had kidnapped two weeks ago.

The national demonstration, unprecedented in Colombia's history, started with a signal in national radio and was accompanied by fire brigade sirens and the ringing of church bells. Traffic stopped and people waved white flags.

The demonstration, supported by the Government, had been called by the Liberal and Conservative parties and was backed by a Socialist alliance and the Communist Party. It had been planned before Señor Jaime Betancur was kidnapped in Bogota.

Oberammergau suit fails

Munich - The women of Oberammergau will go on having to be young and single to be allowed to appear in the traditional once-a-decade Passion Play (Barbara von Ow writes).

The Bavarian Constitutional Court yesterday turned down a suit alleging that the play's regulations violated constitutional rights. Only women who are single, childless and under 35, have the right to elect members to the Passion Play Committee.

Panda ailing

Lin-Ling, the American National Zoo's 12-year-old female giant panda, is seriously ill with kidney failure. Her chances of recovery were poor, zoo officials in Washington said.

Chicago (Reuters) - The sex magazine publisher, Larry Flynt, was jailed yesterday for 60 days for contempt of court after he had shouted obscenities and spat at a Federal judge. He has been in jail in Chicago since his arrest last Saturday for violating a travel ban.

Rapist flogged

Karachi (Reuters) - A young man was flogged in northern Pakistan before a crowd of 25,000 people after an Islamic court convicted him of rape, the Pakistan news agency reported yesterday. Raza Khan received 10 lashes.

Nuclear blast

Wellington (AFP) - New Zealand scientists monitored a small French nuclear test explosion at Mururoa atoll in the South Pacific on Saturday, an official spokesman said yesterday.

\$1m ransom paid

La Paz (AFP) - Lufthansa paid \$1m for the release of its airline representative here who was kidnapped on November 14, the Bolivian Interior Minister announced. Herr Michael Wurche was freed 11 days after his kidnapping, but his abductors have not been found.

Crisis in Lebanon: Israeli anger grows

Greek ships steam to rescue Arafat

From Marie Modiano, Athens

The first of four Greek ships chartered to evacuate the 4,000 Palestinians loyal to Mr Yasser Arafat, is due to reach the port of Tripoli tomorrow.

The Greek Government responded to a request from the PLO leader for help. The Greek Ministry of Merchant Marine made the arrangements and the four ships will take the Palestinians to North Yemen and Tunisia.

"The ships will fly the flag of Greece and the United Nations, as the whole operation will be under the supervision of the U.N. Secretary-General," a spokesman said.

The contracts were signed yesterday between the Greek shipowners and representatives of the PLO, which will bear the cost, including a two per cent war-risk levy.

● JERUSALEM: Pressure is mounting on the Israeli Government not to let Mr Arafat leave safely after the PLO attack on a Jerusalem bus (Christopher Walker writes).

In an interview in Paris, broadcast by Israel Radio, Mr Ariel Sharon, the former Defence Minister, who is now Minister without Portfolio, claimed that it would be a grave mistake for the Israelis to allow Mr Arafat to leave Lebanon, the cost of which would be the revival of the PLO.

Mr Sharon's demand, reflected the anger felt after Tuesday's explosion which killed four Israelis, including two children, aged 11 and 4, and an elderly man of 77. Ten of the 30 civilians still hospitalized were in a serious condition last night and one was described as critical.

Pressing his call for decisive action against Mr Arafat, the former Defence Minister stressed that the destruction of "the terrorist movement" had



Business as usual: A member of the British contingent in Beirut, carrying his rifle and a small Union flag, gets on with the job as his future is debated in London. British soldiers have so far escaped serious injury despite last Friday's destruction of a Land-Rover.

been the most important outcome of the Lebanon war. If the PLO was not permitted to reorganize, the way would be open for a Middle East settlement, he said.

Although both wings of the PLO have claimed responsibility for the bus blast, the first claim from Mr Arafat's group in

Tripoli is regarded here as the most authentic. A senior Israeli official said that once those responsible had been isolated retaliation would be ordered.

It is known that gunboats and at least one submarine from the Israeli Navy have been mounting a blockade outside Tripoli and that one ship, carrying Mr

Arafat's supporters towards the port from Cyprus, was recently intercepted.

Earlier yesterday, Mr Yitzhak Shamir's government comfortably survived a motion of no confidence, arising from its recent unwritten security pact with America. The motion was tabled by the small Israeli Communist Party.

● LONDON: Mr Donald Rumsfeld, President Reagan's special Middle East envoy, spent nearly an hour with Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Foreign Secretary, and Mr Richard Lucas, the Minister of State, at the Foreign Office yesterday while on his way from Washington to Beirut (Henry Stanhope writes).

Stick and carrot from Assad

From Robert Flak, Damascus

Insisting that their American "prisoner of war" was being well treated in military custody in Damascus, the Syrians yesterday handed back to the US Government the body of the airman who died in Sunday's American raid in Lebanon, and announced that Mr Donald Rumsfeld, President Reagan's Middle East envoy, would be welcomed if he came to Damascus.

Mr Abdul Halim Khaddam, the Syrian Foreign Minister, even said that the US should not "lose its role as a mediator power in the Middle East". It was a striking performance.

It was also a familiar Syrian tactic: a carrot-and-stick approach to Washington that involved further condemnation of the Americans for their strategic agreement with Israel and a formal promise that US reconnaissance flights over Syrian military positions in Lebanon - which the Syrians say are still going on - will continue to be treated as hostile and fired at by ground defences.

According to the Syrian Foreign Ministry yesterday the Americans were "openly on the side of the Israelis".

Officially the American raids cost the lives of two Syrian soldiers - unofficially the figure is put by diplomats at 40 dead with 120 wounded - and the

political repercussions of the air strike are still reverberating through Damascus. It was left to Mr Faruk al-Sharar, the Syrian Minister for Foreign Affairs, to put Syria's case yesterday at a press conference in Damascus, in which he claimed that the US reconnaissance flights over Lebanon were a violation of international law.

Having obviously studied the consternation of America's allies in the multinational force, Mr al-Sharar, who is one of the Syrian Government's more eloquent spokesmen, observed sharply that the British and Italians were "wiser" than the Americans and French because they were "reconsidering the presence of their soldiers in Lebanon".

Even more serious than the air raids, he contended, was the American decision "to adopt the Israeli concept of security" by sending aircraft over the Syrian lines in preparation for a future attack in Lebanon.

Mr al-Sharar said that Lieutenant Robert Goodman, the US pilot captured on Sunday, was "officially considered a Prisoner of War".

President Hafez Assad's health was also praised by the minister, who claimed that the Syrian leader had recovered from his operation - officially from an appendicitis but widely

believed outside Syria to be a heart ailment - and was now walking seven miles a day as well as carrying out his government duties. Mr Assad, whose health must be truly phenomenal if such perambulations are to be believed, has left the private clinic in western Damascus and returned to his official home at the presidency.

Yet America's policy in the Middle East dominated Mr al-Sharar's press conference. Following their strategic agreement with Tel Aviv, he said, "the Americans are now openly on the side of the Israelis, against all the Arabs' interests and aspirations. This step will be resisted not only by Syria but by all the Arab world".

In an interview with Japanese television yesterday Mr Khaddam suggested that America's chances of redemption were still high. "If Reagan is a hawk, he will have to face hawks here," the Syrian Foreign Minister said, warning as he has done several times before - that America faced another Vietnam in Lebanon.

Dr Elie Salem, the Lebanese Foreign Minister, will be able to test Syria's mood today when he arrives in Damascus to tell Mr Khaddam the results of the meeting between President Gemayel of Lebanon and President Reagan.

Chastened Americans review their tactics

From Nicholas Ashford, Washington

The US Navy is carrying out an investigation into the downing of two of its aircraft over Syrian-occupied Lebanon on Sunday. It may change tactics to reduce losses.

The Americans have been stung by criticism from US and Israeli experts that the strike had been poorly executed, with faulty tactics, inexperienced pilots and aircraft that were too slow.

US naval officers, who declined to be identified, told journalists that Sunday's losses, two aircraft out of 28 engaged, were just over 7 per cent, which was similar to losses during World War Two and in Vietnam.

The relatively heavy loss would be taken into account when planning future raids. The aircraft met stiffer resistance than expected and information about Syrian anti-aircraft batteries in Lebanon was inadequate, the officer said. A morning haze over the targets had hampered visibility.

General Mordchaie Hod, a former Israeli Air Force commander, blamed the American pilots' "lack of experience" for the loss of two aircraft in one raid. Israel has lost only three aircraft since it invaded Lebanon last year.

Another retired Israeli officer, General Avraham Adan, said the Americans suffered from poor tactics and planning.

The American officer disputed claims that the aircraft had been hit by "World War Two formation". He said they had been hit by 10,000ft to release their bombs at 3,000ft.

He said it was "nonsense" to say the pilots were inexperienced, pointing out that a third of those assigned to the task force off the coast of Lebanon had combat experience in Vietnam.

He also injected the charge that the "subsonic A6 and A7 bombers used in the raid were too slow. Supersonic aircraft would have had to reduce speed for accurate bombing and would be as vulnerable to missiles as the subsonic aircraft.

The officer conceded that the targets attacked were within range of the 16-in guns of the battleship New Jersey, but that the forward air controller would have been needed.

The Syrian Embassy in Washington yesterday confirmed that the US had been notified a number of times that its reconnaissance aircraft would risk being fired on if they flew over Syrian-occupied territory.

Athens summit fiasco

French put blame on Britain but try to avoid recriminations

From Diana Geddes, Paris

If the British are surprised by France's apparent volte-face at Athens on the question of finding a long-term solution to Britain's contribution to the EEC budget, the French are equally surprised at Britain's reaction, believing that it is the British rather than the French who are primarily to blame for the summit's failure.

At the official level very little is being said, save to emphasize France's desire and determination to continue to work for a satisfactory settlement, and every effort is being made to avoid recriminations of any kind. Unlike Mrs Margaret Thatcher, President Mitterrand has made no public comment on Britain's attitude during the summit, despite his strong private feelings.

The only official statement on Athens after yesterday's Cabinet meeting was that President Mitterrand had expressed the hope that the present crisis would help concentrate minds, and that he did not believe in the "self-destruction" of Europe. "If one can dominate the crises, progress is possible" he said.

The resignation of M. André Chagnon, Minister for European Affairs, and his nomination as President of the *Commissariat*, France's highest "court" for the control of public finances, was also announced at the Cabinet meeting. M. Chagnon's departure from the Government had been arranged for some time and had nothing to do with the success or failure of the Athens summit, however. He was considered a tough and competent minister.

President Mitterrand had no need to apportion blame, however. The press has done that for him. There is a unanimous feeling here that it was Mrs Thatcher's intransigence and unwillingness to take one small step toward her Community partners that caused the impasse which led to the total breakdown of negotiations.

That view is supported in private by officials. They reject

the notion that President Mitterrand's declaration that there could be no long-term agreement on Britain's EEC budget contribution represented a radical shift of position from that taken by French officials and ministers in the weeks before the summit.

M. Mitterrand was simply restating the basic principle, always adopted by France, that Britain could not continue to operate outside the Treaty of Rome, they insist. France was not willing to countenance a reform of the treaty to suit Britain and it could no longer accept the present arrangements which in effect rewarded those countries which did not respect the Community preference and continued to import goods from outside the EEC.

M. Claude Cheysson, the Foreign Minister, announced last night that agreement had been reached in bilateral talks with the West Germans at Athens to phase out within a specified period the Monetary Compensation Amounts (MCA's) on agricultural goods which act as a tax on exports for a country with a weak currency such as France, and a subsidy on imports for a country with a strong currency, such as West Germany.

There is a 10 per cent difference between France and West Germany at present. The abolition of the MCA's has been one of the French farmers' chief demands.



M. Chagnon: Tough and competent minister

Get-tough Commission tries to regain control

From Ian Murray, Brussels

The European Commission is to attempt to turn the clock back to the days when it had much more power in the Community. At the same time it is preparing to impose tough controls on the Community budget for the next year in an attempt to spin the money out.

After the total failure of the Athens summit to decide on essential reforms, the 14-member Commission held a crisis meeting in Brussels yesterday and agreed they had to assert their authority in the manner envisaged by the founding fathers.

The Commission believes essentially that the 10 leaders had too many dossiers in Athens to consider. This was directly due to the growing practice of allowing different countries to put forward rival propositions.

In deciding to try to go back to the good old days when it alone made proposals, the Commission is making a tacit admission that it let the preparations for the summit - a meeting not authorized by the rules - run out of control.

The inexperienced Greek presidency tried a new style of summit, which did not work as it often led to as many points of view as ministers round the table.

Mr Gaston Thorn, the Commission President, complained loudly but in vain. Now

the Commission hopes to make its voice heard again.

President Mitterrand, who takes over the presidency for six months in the New Year, is a great stress in Athens on the vital importance of running the community rigidly according to the principles laid down in the Treaty of Rome.

So it is probable that he will do away with the *amortisation* special council idea and concentrate on reaching agreements on the basis of Commission proposals argued out between ministers in regular council sessions.

● BONN: Chancellor Helmut Kohl told the West German Parliament yesterday he did not hide his disappointment at the failure of the Athens summit but he was not prepared to apportion blame (Michael Binyon writes).

West Germany would do its best to ensure that the next council meeting was better able to fulfil its task, and Bonn would hold a series of bilateral meetings with its community partners.

The Chancellor said he hoped the crisis would lead to a change in thinking.

● MADRID: In spite of the Athens debacle, both the Spanish and Portuguese Governments have reassured their wish to join the EEC (Richard Wigg writes).

leading article, page 13

Woman MP fails to get Cabinet job

From Alan McGregor, Geneva

Mrs Lilian Uchtenhagen, the Socialist Party candidate, yesterday failed to become Switzerland's first woman cabinet minister. In a combined session of the Upper and Lower Houses of Parliament, she received 96 votes against 124 for the party's second choice, Mr Otto Stich.

According to opinion polls, 67 per cent of the population supported the idea of a woman in the seven-member Federal Cabinet. There are 24 women in Parliament.

"It is obviously difficult to find a woman who pleases," Mrs Uchtenhagen said. "But perhaps I have opened the way for a woman minister." Her Zurich party headquarters described the majority of MPs as misogynists.

US weighs up Managua overtures

From Mohsin Ali, Washington

The United States is ready to intensify its diplomatic efforts to test fully the sincerity of the leftist Nicaraguan Government's promise to hold elections in 1985 and to grant an amnesty to most of the rebels fighting it.

The State Department spokesman here said caution was necessary in interpreting the current peace signals from Nicaragua. "We don't know whether the signals represent a real willingness to deal with the substantive issues. The test is going to come in the actual negotiating process."

Mr George Shultz, the US Secretary of State, on Monday welcomed the Nicaraguan Government's recent statements but made clear he was waiting for "reality to be put behind the rhetoric".

● TEGUCIGALPA: Nicaraguan rebel leaders rejected an offer of amnesty to Nicaraguans who had left the country since 1979 (NYT reports).

The amnesty decree was issued two days ago, and a Nicaraguan Government spokesman said that rebel leaders, among whom, Señor Calero was mentioned specifically, were not eligible.

improve only if the Soviet Union withdraws its troops from Afghanistan, stops supporting Vietnam's occupation of Cambodia and reduces its troops and missiles along the Chinese border.

Intervention hint, page 8

Mandate for British peace force

The conditions under which a British contingent would participate in the multinational peacekeeping force in Lebanon were agreed in an exchange of notes between the British and Lebanese governments on January 31, 1983.

A letter written by Mr Elie Salem, the Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister of Lebanon, to the British Government said:

Your Excellency, I have the honour to refer to the discussions which have taken place between representatives of our two governments concerning the establishment of a temporary Multinational Force (MNF) in the Beirut area. The Mandate of the MNF is to provide an interposition force at agreed locations and thereby provide a multi-national presence to assist the Lebanese Government and the Lebanese Armed Forces (LAF) in the Beirut area. This presence will facilitate the restoration of Lebanese Government sovereignty and authority over the Beirut area, and thereby further efforts of my Government to assure the safety of persons in the area. The MNF may undertake other functions only by mutual agreement among governments. The MNF is currently composed of contingents of the armed forces of France, Italy and the United States of America.

In the foregoing context, I have the honour to propose that the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland deploy a force of approximately 100 personnel to Beirut for a period of three months, subject to the following terms and conditions:-

(i) The British military force shall carry out basic tasks which may be agreed between the United Kingdom and Lebanon

Governments, consistent with the Mandate of the MNF:

(ii) Command authority over the British force will be exercised exclusively by the British Government through existing British diplomatic and military channels.

(iii) The LAF and MNF will form a liaison and co-ordination committee.

(iv) The British force will operate in close co-operation with the Lebanese Armed Forces.

(v) In carrying out its duties, the British force will not engage in hostilities or other operations of a belligerent nature. It may, however, exercise the right of self-defence.

(vi) Notwithstanding the time limits proposed above, the British force will depart from Lebanon upon the request of the President of Lebanon or upon the decision of the British Government. Any proposal for renewal of the Mandate will be subject to consultation between the Government of the Lebanon and her Majesty's Government and the agreement of both parties.

(vii) The Government of Lebanon and the LAF will take all measures necessary to ensure the protection of the British force's personnel, to include securing assurances from all armed elements not now under the authority of the Lebanese Government that they will refrain from hostilities and not interfere with any activities of the MNF.

(viii) The British force will enjoy the degree of freedom of movement and the right to undertake those activities deemed necessary for the performance of its mission for the support of its personnel. Accordingly, the members of

the British force shall enjoy the privileges and immunities accorded the technical and administrative staff of the British Embassy in Beirut, and shall be exempt from immigration and customs requirements, and restrictions on entering or departing from Lebanon. The appropriate British authorities may exercise jurisdiction over the British force in accordance with British service law. Personnel, property and equipment of the British force introduced into Lebanon shall be exempt from any form of tax, duty, charge or levy.

I have the further honour to propose, if the foregoing is acceptable to Your Excellency's Government, that Your Excellency's reply to that effect, together with this Note, shall constitute an Agreement between our two governments which shall come into force on the date of Your Excellency's reply.

Mr D.A. Roberts, British Ambassador in Beirut, said in a reply to Mr Salem:

Your Excellency, I have the honour to refer to Your Excellency's Note of January 31, 1983 requesting the deployment of a British force to the Beirut area.

I am pleased to inform you that the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland is prepared to deploy for the period of three months a force of approximately 100 personnel.

I have the further honour to inform Your Excellency that my Government accepts the terms and conditions of the presence of the British force in the Beirut area as set forth in your Note, and that Your Excellency's Note and this reply accordingly constitute an Agreement between our two governments which shall come into force today.

China accuses superpowers of being difficult

Peking (Reuters) - China yesterday said talks on normalizing relations with the Soviet Union had not made any headway and its links with the US had been disturbed by the Taiwan issue.

Mr Wu Xueqian, the Foreign Minister, made a major policy

statement to the National People's Congress (NPC) standing committee, according to the New China news agency.

He said China's foreign policy was marked by difficulties with the two superpowers. Normalization of relations with the Soviet Union were an

important aspect of China's foreign policy, but talks this year had not made any headway because Moscow had avoided discussing three main obstacles to improved ties on the excuse of "not impairing the interests of a third country".

China has said relations can

improve only if the Soviet Union withdraws its troops from Afghanistan, stops supporting Vietnam's occupation of Cambodia and reduces its troops and missiles along the Chinese border.

Intervention hint, page 8

\$1,500 to stop your son running away to sea.

If he wants to be an Officer in the Royal Navy we would prefer him to pass his 'A' levels first.

So to help him, the Royal Navy Scholarship Scheme offers £750 p.a. for two years to assist in preparing him academically for a Full Career Commission.

We will also reserve a place for your son at Britannia Royal Naval College, Dartmouth. This is normally conditional on his achieving at least two C-grade 'A' levels.

To qualify, your son must be a UK resident.

He must expect to obtain at least 5 'O' levels in summer '84, including English, Maths and Physics, and if recommended by a Liaison Officer he will then be invited to pass a stiff interview and medical.

And please note the scholarship is restricted to the Royal Navy Seaman and Engineer Officer specialisations and Royal Marines Officer candidates.

But for more detailed information call in at any Royal Navy and Royal Marines Careers Information Office or write to Captain S. G. Palmer RN, Officer Entry Section, Dept. 268, Old Admiralty Building, Spring Gardens, London SW1A 2BE.

Tell him your son's name, date of birth, address, school and the subjects he is sitting or has passed at 'O' level. Closing date for applications is 30/4/84.

But don't wait until then, act now. For GCE 'O' and 'A' levels, equivalent passes are acceptable.



هكذا من الأصل

Argentine air threat to Falklands aims to run up Britain's bill

From Douglas Tweedale
Buenos Aires

The outgoing head of Argentina's Air Force, Brigadier Augusto Hughes, has vowed that Argentine planes will test Britain's defences on the Falkland Islands and harass them to make the defence more expensive for Mrs Thatcher.

"The Air Force will be present in our sovereign airspace, testing and probing the enemy's defence capabilities to wear him down and make his defence more costly," the commander said.

Brigadier Hughes, who resigned his command on Tuesday in preparation for the transfer of power to the elected civilian government, said in a farewell speech that "the more effective our presence is, the more it will cost the enemy to maintain his forces."

He added that it would be difficult for Britain to continue "providing dollars (for the defence of the islands), especially since those colonies do not produce any dividends."

The Air Force has traditionally been the most nationalistic of Argentina's armed forces.



Señor Alfonsín: Polishing up his first speech

and it is known that many officers still harbour strong feelings because of the heavy losses suffered by air crews during the war with Britain.

Brigadier Hughes also said that the Air Force proposed that British capital frozen here during the war should not be released and that British companies not be allowed to take profits out of the country.

Meanwhile, the Argentine Congress formally proclaimed Señor Raúl Alfonsín as the next President of Argentina just four days before he is to take office

as the country's first civilian ruler in nearly eight years.

In a brief meeting postponed from Monday, the joint houses of Congress confirmed the results of the elections last October which gave Señor Alfonsín the victory, and officially named him President.

Señor Alfonsín is to be sworn in on Saturday in a ceremony that will be attended by a number of European and Latin American heads of state, including Spain's Señor Felipe Gonzalez. The US is to be represented by a delegation led by Vice-President George Bush.

The President-elect was putting the finishing touches yesterday on a speech he is to deliver to Congress before being sworn in, while his advisers prepared a package of emergency measures they will propose immediately after Señor Alfonsín takes power.

Those measures are believed to include sanctions against military officers for human rights abuses in recent years, economic measures aimed at reducing Argentina's inflation rates of more than 400 per cent, and a plan to reform the structure of the armed forces.



Question time: Mr Schultz (right) with Herr Genscher at his press conference

Shultz eager to meet Gromyko

From Michael Binyon, Bonn

Mr George Shultz, the American Secretary of State, said yesterday he was "more than ready" to meet Mr Andrei Gromyko, his Soviet opposite number, at the opening of the European disarmament conference in Stockholm on January 17.

He told a press conference at the end of his brief round of talks with government and opposition leaders here that he expected to attend the conference, which he described as important, as there was strong support among the Western Allies for their foreign ministers to be present at the opening.

Mr Shultz has not turned into an angry confrontation over the shooting down of the Korean airliner.

However, among the European allies, West Germany is

particular has been pressing Washington for a resumption of a high-level dialogue. On the eve of Mr Shultz's arrival Herr Hans-Dietrich Genscher, the Foreign Minister, called on the West to take the initiative in improving East-West relations.

Mr Shultz said the US and West Germany had no differences on Nato strategy.

In his meeting with Chancellor Helmut Kohl, Mr Shultz also discussed Lebanon, where, he said, the situation was "troublesome American forces there would continue to defend themselves against attacks. He was convinced the Israelis would withdraw from Lebanon and the task now was to persuade the Syrians to do as well."

● LONDON: Whitehall

The Islamic summit

Delegates ignore plight of Biharis

From Michael Hamlyn, Dhaka

Just 10 minutes by rickshaw from the concrete architectural caprice housing the Islamic foreign ministers' conference here lies the teeming human ashheap where the stranded Biharis dwell.

While the delegates utter resounding speeches about Muslim brotherhood these Muslims, these victims of inter-Muslim strife and suffering from Muslim neglect, are unable even to contact the visitors to Dhaka because of the wall of security surrounding them.

Some 250,000 Biharis, non-Bengali Pakistanis stranded here after the war in 1971, live in camps like Geneva Camp, Mohammadpur, close to the centre of Dhaka. In huts made of palm thatch, 8ft by 6ft, families of five live in a warehouse, dark in the absence of natural windows, smoky with cooking fires and heaving with humanity. Young families, elderly widows, old men and their orphaned grandchildren live in pens.

In summer the heat is intense, the flies appalling, the smells unimaginable. In the monsoon, dark in the absence of natural windows, smoky with cooking fires and heaving with humanity. Young families, elderly widows, old men and their orphaned grandchildren live in pens.

● LONDON: Whitehall

The Biharis - the majority do come from Bihar, but many hail from Bombay, or Madras, or many other parts of India - were mainly railway employees who were given the chance of opting for Pakistan, or India by the departing British Administration in 1947. They chose Pakistan, and rather than risk the bloody riots of Punjab, they opted for East Bengal.

At the time of the Bangladesh war, they supported the Pakistan Army in its repression of the freedom movement, and as such earned deep resentment of the Bengalis.

After the war their assets were frozen, many of them lost their jobs. Some 600,000 asked to go to the western wing, to take up their lives again.

But Pakistan did not want them. They had never lived in what was left of Pakistan. Bangladesh did not want them. India had no interest in taking them. So they were herded into camps and left to the Red Cross to look after.

They have been there ever since. Those who can make a living by casual labour, by pulling rickshaws, shining shoes or begging. The rest live on the allowance of wheat given by the Government to sustain them. Their pensions have stopped, their insurance schemes ended.

The Bangladesh Government recognises no obligation to honour their contracts.

Iran renews threat to shut Hormuz

From Our Own Correspondent, Dhaka

Dr Ali Akbar Velayati, the Iranian Foreign Minister, minced no words in telling the Islamic conference here yesterday that Iran would not hesitate to close the Strait of Hormuz if its interests in the Gulf were threatened.

Dr Velayati, bearded and wearing no tie, told the meeting of Islamic foreign ministers, which includes the Gulf States, Kuwait and Qatar as well as Iraq: "If we are ever deprived of our inalienable and legitimate rights then we reserve the right to reconsider our undertaking (to keep the Gulf open). In that case the Persian Gulf region will be secure for nobody, and we will not hesitate in closing down the Strait of Hormuz."

The Iraqi delegate to the meeting, Mr Hamad Alwan, the Minister of State, told the conference that Iraq was perfectly prepared to accept the goodwill mission's plan.

● TEHRAN: Captain Buhman Afzali, the former Iranian Navy Commander-in-Chief, admitted before a court here yesterday to spying for the Soviet Union.

The Iranian Foreign Minister, flanked by two turbaned mullahs, made no reference to the goodwill mission, led by President Sekou Toure of Guinea, which was set up by the last Islamic summit. Every speech made to the conference so far has referred to the tragedy of the Iran-Iraq war.

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Cautious Ozal pledges to axe ministries

From Rasit Gardilek, Ankara

Military rule ended in Turkey yesterday when President Kenan Evren called on Mr Turgut Ozal, last month's general election winner, to form a government.

General Evren said he hoped that "now that the faults of Turkey's former democratic system are corrected and democracy is based on firmer foundations, there will be no further breakdowns."

Mr Ozal thanked the President for saving the country from certain disaster, pledging every effort on the part of his government to consolidate the successes attained.

Mr Ozal admitted his five-year term in power would not be easy because of the problems confronting the country, for which he invoked "the help of God". Improving the lot of the "central column" (his description of the middle class) would be a priority.

The former chief of the economy who was swept to power on a ticket of liberal economic policies and a hard drive against inflation, said he would reduce the number of ministries to streamline the bureaucracy.

He has also promised to eliminate the influence of the state on the economy and to restore the economic stabilization programme, which he had masterminded, to its original ruthlessness.

● ISTANBUL: The newspaper, *Hurriyet*, reappeared on news-stands yesterday after martial-law authorities lifted a week-long ban on publication of the largest circulation daily.

Publication was allegedly suspended because the paper printed an obituary, which praised the late Ismail Bilen, the former secretary-general of the outlawed Turkish Communist Party.

Opposition to Marcos joins forces

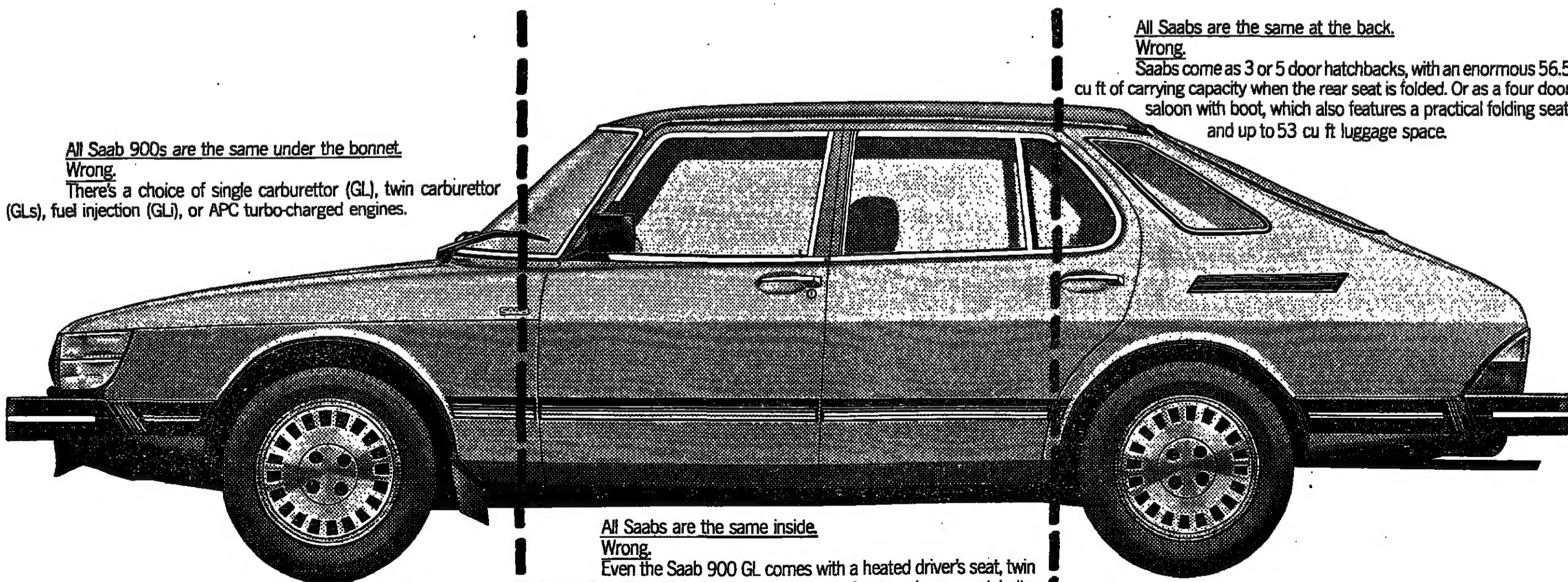
From Keith Dalton
Manila

Philippine opposition groups yesterday announced plans to hold a national people's congress next month to elect an "alternative government" of 15 sectoral leaders who would be willing to hold reconciliation talks with President Ferdinand Marcos.

The formation of the multi-sectoral congress was accompanied by a warning from the organizers that it was the last attempt to avert further radicalization of the Filipino people.

The chairman of the congress, Mr Agapito Aquino, brother of the murdered opposition leader, Benigno Aquino, said the principle aim was to debunk claims that the opposition lacked a leader of the calibre of Mr Marcos.

AN INVESTIGATION INTO THE DECEPTIVE APPEARANCE OF A SAAB



All Saab 900s are the same under the bonnet.
Wrong.
There's a choice of single carburettor (GL), twin carburettor (GLs), fuel injection (GLi), or APC turbo-charged engines.

All Saabs are the same at the back.
Wrong.
Saabs come as 3 or 5 door hatchbacks, with an enormous 56.5 cu ft of carrying capacity when the rear seat is folded. Or as a four door saloon with boot, which also features a practical folding seat and up to 53 cu ft luggage space.

All Saabs are the same inside.
Wrong.
Even the Saab 900 GL comes with a heated driver's seat, twin internally adjustable mirrors, velour seats, front and rear seat belts, power steering and our unique heating and ventilation system.
The GLs, and the GLi shown here, also feature central locking, 5-speed gearbox, rev counter and wide wheels with low profile tyres.
And the Turbo has electric windows, tinted glass, electric mirrors, a heated passenger seat, and luxury upholstery.
While on our top models you can even specify leather upholstery, cruise control and air conditioning.

By now you will have discovered that despite appearances, Saabs can be as individual as you wish. On the other hand, because we never compromise on necessities for sake of appearances, you'll find every Saab has headlamp wash-wipes, daytime running lights, self repairing bumpers, all round asbestos-free disc brakes, one of the strongest passenger safety cages in the automotive world, and as a test drive will prove, front wheel drive and 60% weight over the driven wheels makes a Saab handle like a sports car.
After all this, you might be deceived into thinking that Saabs are expensive. You'd be wrong.

SAAB 900 FROM £7,320.

The Saab 900GL costs £7,320. Model illustrated is Saab 900 GLi 5 door at £9,090. Prices correct at time of going to press and include car tax and VAT. Road fund licence, delivery charges and number plates are extra. Saab (UK) Ltd, Saab House, Fieldhouse Lane, Marlow, Bucks. SL7 1LY. Telephone: (0628) 6977. After sales: (0604) 43643.

Purpose of acquiring trading stock

Coates (Inspector of Taxes) v Armale Properties Ltd
Reed (Inspector of Taxes) v Nova Securities Ltd

Before Lord Justice Lawton, Lord Justice Fox and Lord Justice Kerr
(Judgment delivered December 6)

For an asset to be acquired "as trading stock" within the meaning of section 274(1) of the Income and Corporation Taxes Act 1970 the purpose of the acquisition must be commercial in character.

The Court of Appeal so held when considering two appeals involving claims by taxpayer companies to avail themselves of provisions in the Income and Corporation Taxes Act 1970 and Finance Act 1965 enabling groups of companies to set off a capital loss against a revenue loss for corporation tax purposes.

Where the sole purpose of the acquisition of an asset by the taxpayer company was to obtain a fiscal advantage for the group of companies of which it was a member, the Court of Appeal held that the asset was not acquired "as trading stock" and allowed an appeal by the Crown from the decision of Mr Justice Goulding in *Coates* and the decision of the Crown's appeal against the determination of the general commissioners to discharge an assessment to corporation tax on *Armale Properties Ltd* in a sum of £28,072 for the year ending March 31, 1974.

The court (Lord Justice Lawton dissenting) dismissed the Crown's appeal from the decision of Mr Justice Goulding in *Coates* (the *Times* August 1982) who upheld the determination of the general commissioners to discharge an assessment to corporation tax on *Nova Securities Ltd* for its accounting period to December 1973.

Leave to appeal to the House of Lords was granted in both cases. Mr Jonathan Parker, QC and Mr John Mummery for the Crown in the first appeal; Mr Andrew Park, QC and Mr Michael Flesch, QC for *Armale Properties Ltd*; Mr J. E. Holroyd Pearce, QC and Mr Peter Goldsmith for the Crown in the second appeal; Mr C. N. Beattie, QC and Mr Christopher Sokol for *Nova Securities Ltd*.

LORD JUSTICE LAWTON said that in each appeal the principal issue was whether the company taxpayer, being a member of a group of companies, had acquired an asset "as trading stock" within the meaning of section 274(1) of the Income and Corporation Taxes Act 1970. If they had, they could bring into account as trading losses capital losses which had been sustained by the member of the group from whom they had acquired the assets.

In both cases the asset acquired was of the kind in which the taxpayer company traded. But that did not mean that it had been acquired "as trading stock". It must have been acquired for the purpose of being used in the course of trade.

In his Lordship's judgment, if the acquisition of an asset lacked a commercial character it could not be said to have been acquired as trading stock; but if it had that character the reason why the acquisition was made, in the absence of other factors, ought not to deprive it of that character.

Whether a transaction had a commercial character was a question of mixed fact and law. It was a question of law what the words "acquires an asset as trading stock" in section 274(1) meant and a question of fact whether the transaction in question came within that meaning.

If the words connoted a transaction having a commercial character and on the facts found, the commissioners could reasonably have adjudged that it had such character, they could not be said to have made a determination which was erroneous in law and their determination could not be set aside.

In the first appeal, the taxpayer was one of a number of wholly

owned subsidiaries within the Town and City group and dealt in land. Another subsidiary, Sovereign Property Investments (Newport) Ltd (SPI) had spent £5,313,822 on a property development scheme at Newport which had a market value of only £3,100,000.

On March 30, 1973, SPI transferred the property to the taxpayer for a consideration shown by book entries as £3,090,000. By another assignment on the same day the taxpayer transferred the property to a third subsidiary Armale Properties Trust Ltd (Armale), an investment company, for £3,100,000.

As the two assignments had been made between members of a group of companies, section 273(1) of the 1970 Act applied so that the transfer was deemed to have produced no loss to SPI and the taxpayer was deemed to have acquired the property at a price of £5,313,822.

The property was not part of SPI's trading stock. It was one of its capital assets. Land and buildings, however, were assets with which the taxpayer traded.

If it did acquire the property as trading stock, section 274(1) applied under paragraph 1 of Schedule 7 to the Finance Act 1965, the taxpayer's appropriation to its trading stock would be made at its market value of £3,100,000, and the difference of £2,213,822 between that value and the deemed consideration under section 273(1) could be treated as a trading loss following an election under paragraph 3, which was made in December 1975.

The commissioners decided that the taxpayer had acquired the property "as trading stock", even though those responsible for overall group policy had decided that the property should be sold to the taxpayer and immediately resold to Armale solely in order that the group should obtain a fiscal advantage in the form of tax relief for the large and genuine loss which SPI had suffered.

In his Lordship's judgment, the commissioners could not have directed themselves properly as to the relevant law. They should have looked at the transaction as a whole and should not have confined themselves to the legal effect of the two assignments.

The transactions did not bear the badges of trade. Within the group there was no commercial reason why SPI should not have assigned directly to Armale. No cash passed. The profit to the taxpayer of £10,000 could not have been much of an incentive because on its face no provision had been made for profit.

The assignment through the taxpayer could only have been made for the purpose of getting a fiscal benefit. The property could not have been acquired "as trading stock". When deciding otherwise the commissioners made a determination which was erroneous in point of law.

The judge had considered himself bound to uphold the determination because of *Griffiths v J. P. Harrison (Haford) Ltd* ([1963] AC 1). Assuming, as must, that the judgment in that case as to the construction of section 34(1) of the Income Tax Act 1952 was binding on the court, his Lordship distinguished the present appeal on the ground that it was concerned with section 274(1) of the 1970 Act.

In the second appeal, the taxpayer company bought and sold quoted securities in a small way over a number of years. In March 1973 the whole of its issue share capital was acquired by a company from the Littlewoods group.

The acquiring company had previously undertaken a commercial venture in Western Germany through a subsidiary, Medallion Mode GmbH, which had been financially disastrous. Its only chance of recouping any losses lay in the value of Medallion's premises in Offenbach.

MR JUSTICE O'CONNOR said that patients under the 1959 Act were not a category like accomplices or complainants in sexual cases, nor would their Lordships wish to make them into an additional category. Patients detained in a special hospital after conviction for an offence or those even if they were not a category, might well fulfil to a very high degree the criteria which justified the requirement of the full warning in respect of witnesses within accepted categories.

If seemed to their Lordships that in such cases nothing short of the full warning that it was dangerous to convict on the uncorroborated evidence of the witnesses would suffice.

The trial judge's summing up was a masterpiece of lucidity and fairness; he gave an impeccable direction to the jury that they should treat the evidence of the complainants with the greatest caution, but their Lordships were in no doubt that the three complainants in the present case were shown to be persons in respect of whom the full warning was essential. The convictions were unsafe and should be quashed.

Solicitor: Tracey Barlow Furniss & Co., Worksop; Director of Public Prosecutions.

Uncorroborated evidence of mental patients

Regina v Bagshaw and Others
Before Lord Justice O'Connor, Mr Justice Kilner Brown and Mr Justice Popplewell
(Judgment delivered December 2)

The Court of Appeal (Criminal Division) certified that a point of law of general public importance was involved in the question whether in a case where the evidence for the Crown was solely that of a witness who was not in one of the accepted categories of suspect witnesses, but who by reason of his particular mental condition and criminal convictions fulfilled the same criteria, the judge must warn the jury that it was dangerous to convict on his uncorroborated evidence. Leave to appeal to the House of Lords was refused.

The Court gave reasons for allowing, on November 10, the appeals of Robert Keith Bagshaw, James Holmes and Alan Starkey, who were convicted on May 11, 1982 at Nottingham Crown Court (Judge Hopkin and a jury) of ill-treating patients contrary to section 26 of the Mental Health Act 1959.

Mr J. B. Morimer, QC and Mr Aidan S. Marron for the appellants; Mr Jeremy Roberts, QC and Mr Richard Dixon for the Crown.

Law Society report must be disclosed

Buckley v The Law Society
Before Lord Justice Cumming-Bruce and Lord Justice Fox
(Judgment delivered December 2)

A "handround" given by Law Society staff to a professional purposes committee meeting where it was then decided that there was reason to suspect dishonesty in a solicitor was a material document requiring discovery.

The Court of Appeal dismissed an appeal by the Law Society against the inclusion on May 17, 1983 of the handround in an order for discovery of documents relating to an intervention by them under paragraph 6(4) of Schedule 1 to the Solicitors Act 1974 against Mr C R Buckley: see *The Times* May 14, 1983.

Mr Ian Kennedy, QC and Mr John P. Whitaker for the Law Society; Mr John G. Wilmer, QC and Mr Ian McCulloch for Mr Buckley.

LORD JUSTICE FOX said that the court was primarily concerned with a report from the Law Society professional purposes staff to the professional purposes committee at

which the resolution to intervene was passed.

The Law Society argued that the question now was not whether they had reason to suspect dishonesty but whether it would be safe for the court to conclude that they should withdraw their intervention, and the handround was not relevant to that issue; it was not a case of judicial review as to whether they had directed themselves properly in deciding whether to pass the resolution.

His Lordship could not accept that argument. The order for discovery in terms related to the position at the date when the Law Society decided they had reason to suspect dishonesty. The handround must by its very nature show grounds in fact for dishonesty or the absence of it, as it appeared to the officers of the society at that time. Whether primary fact or analysis of facts, it was primary material before the committee.

LORD JUSTICE CUMMING-BRUCE agreed.

Solicitors: Hempsons; Edwin Coe & Calder Woods.

Statutory or common-law conspiracy

Regina v Ayres
Before Lord Justice O'Connor, Mr Justice Kilner Brown and Mr Justice Popplewell
(Judgment delivered December 2)

The question whether conspiracy to defraud at common law could only be charged where the evidence did not support any substantive statutory conspiracy, having regard to sections 1 and 5 of the Criminal Law Act 1977, as amended, was certified as involving a point of law of general public importance. Leave to appeal to the House of Lords was refused.

The Court of Appeal dismissed an appeal by David Edward Ayres against his conviction on October 15, 1982 at Reading Crown Court (Judge Hilliard) of conspiracy to defraud. He was sentenced to eight months' imprisonment.

The Criminal Law Act 1977 provides by section 1: "(1) Subject to the following provisions of this part of this Act, if a person agrees with any other person or persons that a course of conduct shall be pursued which will necessarily amount to or involve the commission of any offence or offences by one or more of the parties to the agreement if the agreement is carried out in accordance with their intentions, he is guilty of conspiracy to commit the offence or offences in question."

Section 5 provides: "(1) Subject to the following provisions of this section, the offence of conspiracy at common law is hereby abolished. (2) Subsection (1) above shall not affect the offence of conspiracy at common law so far as relates to conspiracy to defraud, and section 1

above shall not apply in any case where the agreement in question amounts to a conspiracy to defraud at common law."

Mr Christopher Wilson-Smith and Mr Robin Tolson for the appellant; Mr Julian Baughman and Mr J. M. D. Chapple for the Crown.

MR JUSTICE KILNER BROWN, delivering the judgment of the court, said that the substantive fraud alleged was an intention to obtain money from an insurance company by a false representation that a lorry load of scallops had been stolen while in transit, which would be contrary to section 15 of the Theft Act 1968.

It had been submitted that the indictment should have been laid as a conspiracy to obtain property by deception contrary to section 1(1) of the 1977 Act, and not as a conspiracy to defraud contrary to common law.

The application of sections 1(1) and 5(1) and (2) had given rise to much discussion, to difference of opinion between divisions of the Court of Appeal and uncertainty in courts of first instance. The wording of section 5(1) and (2) appeared in effect to preserve the whole range of common law conspiracy to defraud, which included a wide variety of offences which were created and defined by statute and were no longer common-law offences.

In *R v Quinn* (1978) Crim L R 750 Mr Justice Drake ruled that a conspiracy to steal should be charged at common law. In *R v Walters* (1979) 69 Cr App R 115 Lord Widgery, Lord Chief Justice, held that it was proper to regard a conspiracy to steal as something

within a conspiracy to defraud, and that an indictment was not rendered invalid merely because it charged conspiracy to defraud if truly the offence was conspiracy to steal.

Then in *R v Duncalf* (1979) 1 WLR 918 the Court of Appeal held, disapproving *Quinn*, that upon the true construction of section 5(2) the only common-law offence that was preserved was a conspiracy to defraud simpliciter, and that where the obvious purpose of the conspiracy was to steal the Act required it to be charged as such contrary to section 1.

As a result of the guidance given the practice had developed of framing indictments and conspiracies to rob and conspiracies to steal and so forth rather than alleging a conspiracy to defraud, and alleging a conspiracy to defraud in those cases where fraud was the essence of the offence.

The convenience of that practice was demonstrated by the facts of the instant case. The difficulty was that

the draughtsman plainly envisaged that a conspiracy to defraud might also be a conspiracy as defined by section 1(1), and so provided in section 5(2).

Their Lordships doubted whether the decisions in *Duncalf* and *Walters* could stand together. On the clear wording of section 5(2) they were content to be bound by the decision in *Walters* and to hold that the appellant was properly charged with conspiracy to defraud. The submission that the indictment was defective was rejected. Their Lordships, however, wished to remind those who persisted in raising questions on the form of the indictment that the arguments were of little practical importance. Even if an indictment was incorrectly framed, it was defective only and did not render the trial a nullity: see *R v Mohan* (1980) 72 Cr App R 111 and *R v McLaughlin* (1982) 76 Cr App R 42.

Solicitors: Wolfertons, Plymouth; Mr C. S. Hoad, Kidlington.

Claiming for interest

Alsabah Maritime Services Company Ltd v Philippine International Shipping Corporation

Although a contracting party could in some circumstances be liable in special damages for interest charges which another party had incurred by reason of the first party's default in paying sums due under the contract, such damages were not recoverable where the contract expressly provided that

further charges would not arise under it unless agreed between the parties, and where the charging of interest was illegal in the jurisdiction in which the contract sum should have been paid.

Mr Justice Neill so stated in the Commercial Court of the Queen's Bench Division on November 30, giving judgment for the plaintiff company for sums due under a contract which it had made with the defendant corporation.

For a Rolex Oyster, flying round the world is just a routine job.

After nearly 60 hours without sleep, flying at 17,000 feet over India, Judith Chisholm began to hallucinate. Faces of relatives and friends began to appear around her in the cockpit.

But even then, with her physical and mental reserves virtually exhausted, Judith Chisholm was determined to continue her record breaking round-the-world flight and fly on to Sri Lanka.

"I had the option of landing in India," she says, "but I couldn't take the risk of being delayed."

Later in the flight Judith found herself flying through a tropical storm of terrifying intensity during which the plane was struck by lightning.

"In all my years of flying, I've never been so frightened," she says.

And then, within four hours of Australia, a fault in the fuel transfer system nearly forced her down into the ocean.

On reaching Sydney, Judith decided she was capable of flying on. And when she finally



touched down at London, Heathrow, her tiny single-engined aircraft had taken her over 27,000 miles in 15 days. She had broken 29 world records including the fastest-ever round-the-world flight by a woman.

During those 15 days she had slept for less than 40 hours.

Little wonder then to hear Judith describe her regular occupation of flying executive jets around Europe as "just a routine job."

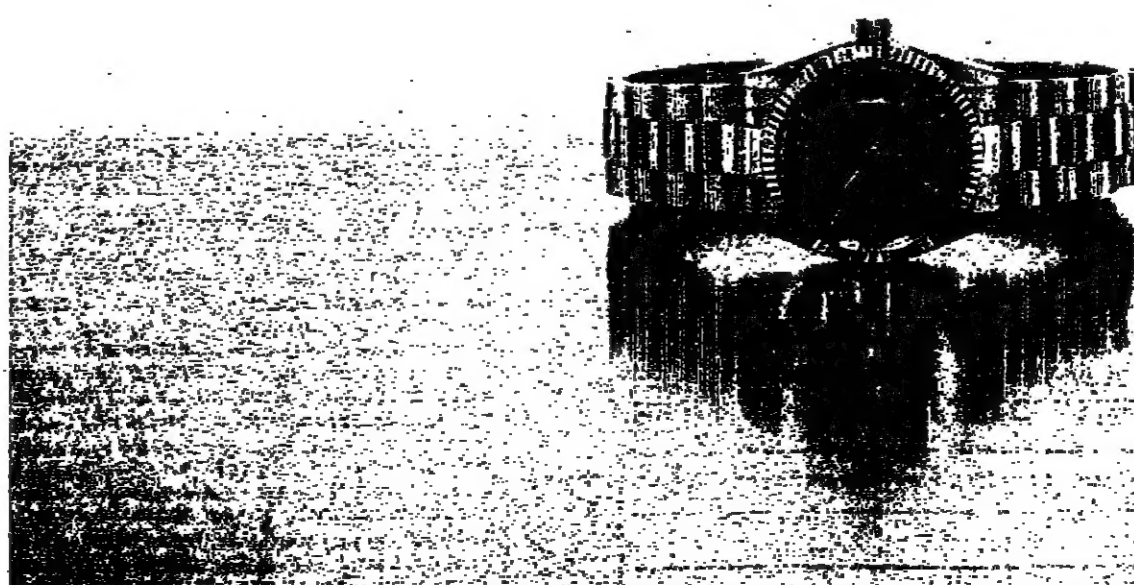
For Judith Chisholm, part of the routine of any flight is a Rolex Oyster.

"On a normal flight, having a totally reliable watch is

essential," she says. "To attempt to fly round the world without one would be absolute madness. A Rolex Oyster is that totally reliable watch. Unlike me, it was wide awake for every second of those 360 hours."

It is reassuring to know that every Rolex Oyster Chronometer is constructed to withstand a flight like Judith Chisholm's.

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The Rolex Datejust Chronometer (6527/8). In 18ct. gold; stainless steel and yellow metal; or stainless steel. All with matching bracelet. Watch shown actual size.

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SPECTRUM

The unlikely civil servant

The Times Profile
Lord Carrington

Britain's two most remarkable foreign secretaries since the war have come from opposite extremes of the social spectrum. Yet there are revealing similarities between them, in content if not in form. Neither Ernest Bevin nor Lord Carrington - due to be named tomorrow as the next Secretary-General of Nato - went to university, though both were men of powerful, natural and energetic intelligence. Both had extensive experience of the world outside politics, and neither mixed ideology with foreign affairs. The parallel should not be strained but it highlights the cross-party pragmatism that has, until very recently, characterized the British approach to foreign policy. In Carrington's case, this took the form of a coruscating common sense which was the root of his enormous popularity with the British public.

Most biographies linger more on the style than the substance of the man: the overtones of Whiggery, Waugh and Wodehouse; Eton, the Guards, the manor house and the acres in Buckinghamshire; and the apparent effortlessness of everything, whether the rise to power, the humour or the charm.

There is a shade of affectionate, national self-caricature in this emphasis on the antique. But it obscures the fact that Lord Carrington is a very serious, modern man. The image of the languid, aristocratic amateur is fundamentally faulty. He has a considerable disdain for the more lethargic of his caste, and his sympathy with the cause of the reform of the House of Lords (he was once its leader) is well attested.

His resignation is usually discussed in old-fashioned terms of "honour". There was certainly a strong element of this. But he himself admits that the practical difficulty of entering a probable war with a controversial foreign secretary under unremitting attack from parts of the press was also very much on his mind.

Since then he has fretted not so much at the indignity of what happened (though he has never enjoyed anything less) as at his relative inactivity. He has enough to do to fill a long day: as chairman of GEC he travels a good deal, smoothing the way for big business from the Middle East to South-east Asia. He also takes his new job at the Victoria and Albert Museum very seriously, and has more time for his farm. But he feels the need to be stretched.

His activism in the public interest goes back to the time when he was

elected as a county councillor in his native Buckinghamshire for three years after the war. His periods in office - at the ministries of Agriculture, Energy and Defence before the Foreign Office - have also been interspersed with active involvement in business and banking, and relentless travel.

At the Foreign Office, this business reached a peak. Initially, there was as much to learn as to do, especially about Europe. MCAs (the notoriously intricate system of Monetary Compensation Amounts paid under the agricultural policy) and the Green Pound had not existed during his earlier days in the ministry of Agriculture. Carrington is not a natural economist - though he is not a matchstick man either - and he had to swot up the whole subject at the same time as he was laying the diplomatic foundations of Lancaster House. His solution was to get up at five and do a couple of hours hard work on his box before breakfast.

The inner rigour could be seen in other ways. Behind the bonhomie and the banter, there is a sharp and even merciless critic. It came out in small ways. Each ambassador thought he was Carrington's favourite. Each had his weak point too, which Carrington spotted at first meeting. His almost obsessive politeness was another aspect of the same characteristic. All over the world he left a trail of startled motorcycle escorts who were obliged to tug off their massive gloves to shake hands with the visiting Foreign Secretary while his plane revved and his staff anguished over the lost time. But he was equally demanding in return: kept waiting for a meeting or an audience for more than a minute, he would begin to twitch and accuse the culprit, whatever his rank, of insulting behaviour.

The Foreign Office was the peak of Carrington's pre-Nato career; all he asked was to stay there. He had no grand strategy to implement - he hated "concepts" and would finger any thick, thoughtful-looking paper suspiciously and ask his private secretary whether it contained any. But he saw a lot to be done and set about it briskly. His industry, purposefulness and wit captivated his officials, who worked with him willingly, as a team.

By far the most urgent problem was Rhodesia. It is hard to remember now the extent to which the issue dominated British foreign policy at that point. Often as much as 50 per cent of the Foreign Secretary's time was devoted to the affairs of southern Africa. Just as Bevin, the trade



Lord Carrington: a very serious, modern man

unionist, was the right man at the right historical moment to secure a national consensus for the necessity of Nato; so Carrington was best placed in the House of Lords to take the hair-raising political risks of Lancaster House. The Rhodesian settlement was pushed through by a mixture of bluff, willpower and sheer diplomatic professionalism, with his friend Ian Gilmour keeping the anxious Commons involved.

Carrington knew all along that he was on the high wire, and naturally resented the prodding in the press and the intrigues by some of his own party to dislodge him - just as he could never forgive Nyerere's attempts to wreck the conference. He still has no regrets at having stopped an unwinable war in which 25,000 people, including many whites, had already died, and at having staged one of the most democratic elections ever likely to be seen in Africa. He is genuinely unable to understand the opponents of the settlement. He himself is a fierce opponent of the illusion of options - in this case letting the war go on, backing the fragile Bishop Muzorewa, or both.

He was equally persistent in the search for diplomatic solutions in Gibraltar, Belize, Hongkong and the Falklands. In this sense, he was very much in tune with the new Thatcher times, with their emphasis on the evils of complacency and inertia. Ever

conscious of the danger of letting these sensitive situations fester, he once threw a fit when a national newspaper suggested that he should learn to "leave well alone". He was conscious too of the enormity of the problems Britain faced closer to the centre of her concerns - in Europe, the Middle East, East/West relations and the Atlantic relationship.

What had been an advantage over Rhodesia turned out to be a drawback in the Falklands. Stiff, formal and infrequent sessions with the select committee on Foreign Affairs and meetings with backbenchers could not substitute for direct involvement in the House of Commons. Maybe the crucial point in Carrington's career was his decision not to promote leaseback in the Falklands after the Commons said "no". His defence is the difficulty of doing so without signalling weakness to the Argentines; and that it is all really hindsight anyway. It is the only real point on which the Franks Report sought to fault him.

Only after the Rhodesian incubus was lifted was there time to devote to the central issues. Here, his activism was balanced by an inbred scepticism: some of his officials would have preferred Britain to take a higher profile in the Middle East, for example. Carrington (who had a way of making them think he was taking their advice, but doing something rather different) worked hard to secure the Venice Declaration, and at follow-up contacts with individual Arab governments. But his short-term concern was not to pull off another diplomatic coup, but to contain the combustible uncertainties of the Middle East during the American electoral campaign, at a time when Carter's Camp David was manifestly failing; and to get what he saw as the simple, balanced principles of the declaration firmly established.

He has always been an unabashed believer in diplomacy. But he believes strongly in defence too. He never questioned the need for cruise or Trident, though he enjoyed stirring up waves in Whitehall by repeating at the drop of a brass hat his belief that Britain would eventually have to

choose between a first class navy, army and air force.

He was unquestioning too about Europe. At the slightest manifestation of anti-Europeanism he would launch into a well-rehearsed, but perfectly sincere, speech about his post-war reflections as he "stood in the ruins of Cologne".

It is sometimes said that Carrington, as foreign secretary, travelled too much, and lost touch with political realities at home. Seen in a different perspective, this international activism had a broader purpose and effect. By flying the flag with such flair, he helped to reassure opinion abroad while some heavy domestic furniture was being moved around. By keeping Britain's end up, he helped the government's overall popularity at a time when there seemed little prospect of an economic Lancaster House.

The key relationship was, of course, with Mrs Thatcher. They saw each other far more often - almost daily - than is usual between prime minister and foreign secretary. There were, inevitably, difficulties. But there was real mutual respect as well, and any tensions were remarkably creative. As a non-contender for the throne, Carrington used his political detachment to argue forcefully for what he thought was right. They brought out the best in each other: she helping to root him in stern principle; and he acting as a catalyst between the Prime Minister's instincts and intelligence.

There was never any rancour and much mutual solicitude. Once, late on a Saturday afternoon after a tense day on the Rhodesian tightrope, he arrived pale, drawn and hunched at Number 10. The Prime Minister suddenly realized that he had not eaten, and offered to cook him scrambled eggs in her flat upstairs. The chemistry between them was sometimes volatile, but mostly highly effective.

The Prime Minister supported his Nato candidacy, though Carrington himself has hardly gone out of his way to solicit the job. His famous "megaphone diplomacy" speech at the International Institute of Strategic Studies last April (in fact he deliberately omitted these particular words, which he thought might be misunderstood at Number 10, from the spoken text but they were in the press release...) was hardly calculated to improve his chances of appointment in Washington's eyes.

Yet Carrington is a natural choice for Nato at a time when the effectiveness of defence through deterrence will become increasingly closely linked to the diplomacy of arms control. It is difficult to think of anyone better suited to "sell" Nato's strategy to the western public; and to reconcile transatlantic interests, after the bruising period of the Euro-missiles deployment, than a former British minister of both defence and foreign affairs with his reputation.

In a sense he is an unlikely international civil servant. Mrs Thatcher said on his resignation that he had been a "sturdy and bonny fighter for Britain". He will still be fighting for Britain, as well as for Nato in Brussels. His appointment will help to raise Britain's profile and prestige in the whole costly, complex area of security, arms control and East/West relations.

And there is a curious continuity in the fact that Carrington, the aristocrat, should be secretary-general of an organisation in the establishment of which his distinguished, proletarian predecessor as foreign secretary had such a big hand.

George Walden

The author, Conservative MP for Buckingham, was principal private secretary to Lord Carrington at the Foreign Office, 1979-81.

Nato's man in the middle

The Secretary-General of Nato, as the most senior official of the biggest and most powerful security alliance in the world, has immense prestige but, in reality, very little power.

He is an international civil servant appointed by the organization's highest body, the North Atlantic Council, which consists of the representative ministers from each member country.

He becomes chairman of this council, the Defence Planning Committee, and the Nuclear Planning Group, in their meetings at ministerial level - normally twice a year - and in their regular and informal meetings at permanent representatives' level - normally twice a week. There he can exert considerable influence but all decisions are made by the delegates and, as the organization has no supra-national character, they have to be unanimous.

It is from this apparent weakness that his power derives but it is that of a diplomat rather than that of a ruler. Where there are conflicting national interests, he must recognize the main lines of possible consensus and move ministers or their representatives towards it by personal persuasion. He can do this alone or by seeking the support of one or more of the ministers; he can point out approach avenues, suggest compromises, inform and instruct - but he can never command.



Joseph Luns: an armour-plated Kallis-Royce

There is no standard contract for a secretary-general. Matters such as salary, entertainment and travel expenses, house and car, are negotiated between Council and candidate. Mr Joseph Luns, the outgoing Secretary-General, has a tax-free salary comparable to that of the United Nations Secretary-General, a fully staffed house and is driven in a green, armoured Rolls-Royce.

So far the incumbent has set his own time limit: Mr Luns is in his thirteenth year. It is understood that the Council will now limit the next term to four years. At new incumbent will himself decide the limitations he must impose on himself. Contracts for members of the international staff stipulate that they give their undivided attention to their task and they cannot, therefore, hold other posts. Membership of a board of directors of any commercial company would probably be

incompatible with the appointment, let alone, in view of its defence equipment production side, that of GEC. Equally, he would not be able to take an active part in the politics of his own country. However, propagating the Nato doctrine has become one of the primary functions of the secretary-general, one which Mr Luns fulfilled outstandingly.

His tasks are manifold, his problems vast. At a time when East-West relations are at their worst since the early 1950s, the Alliance is under considerable internal stress. The secretary-general inherits a watching brief on Greece and Turkey, will have to face a referendum on adherence in Spain, and sees a perennial tug of war between Europe and the United States. He will need great powers of persuasion and conciliation as well as penetrating vision to achieve even a measure of success.

Frederick Bonmart

LECH WALESA

The interview with Lech Walesa, carried on yesterday's Spectrum page, was the result of questions compiled by Western journalists based in Poland and put to Mr Walesa by two intermediaries: a Polish journalist who has not been allowed to work in his own country for two years and a Polish-speaking Western journalist, both of whom desired to remain anonymous.

moreover...
Miles KingstonUnsung hero
of those
noises off

People who do very unusual jobs indeed 17: The MP who sits nearest to the microphone on the Commons and goes "Yah! Yah!"

Whenever we hear a recording of the proceedings in the House of Commons, we can hear behind the speaker a chorus of reaction from MPs, ranging from a quiet rhubarb to a rabble riot. But no matter how loud the chorus one voice always seems closer than the others. It belongs to Quentin Huckleby, SDP-Labour member for Crossover South.

"Like all great Parliamentary customs, it started by accident," says Quentin, an affable self-employed conveyancer of about 45. "I just happened to be sitting nearest the mike one day during a particularly boring debate on the renaming of the North Sea. And I was passed a note by the Speaker. 'Please provide some reactions,' it said, 'or the radio audience will think there's no one here.' Well, I could see what he meant, so I started harrumphing and groaning a bit, as we normally would do if Mrs Thatcher was speaking."

"Anyway, the Speaker came up to me afterwards and said I was a great success and could I go on doing it in future debates, so I always have. What he liked especially, I think, was that he couldn't tell from the noises I was making whether I supported the speaker or not. Of course, as a Labour-SDP member I often don't know myself, so I suppose I have without realizing evolved some non-committal but impassioned noises. I now have a special seat near the mike."

Quentin Huckleby has not actually spoken in the house since winning his seat at the Election, but as he has been groaning non-stop through every debate, he doesn't think he has to.

"People outside the Commons often think it's rude of me to interrupt and barrack speakers but they don't realize that the speakers love it. Mrs Thatcher raising her voice to roar over the rebellious crowd beneath her - well, she's lost if she didn't have that hubbub to fight. She'd certainly sound pretty stupid if she were shouting in a complete silence. When there's not enough noise, she actually signals to me to start the protest going."

How does he get that distinctive "Yah-yah" noise that only MPs seem capable of? "It's not really 'Yah-yah' if you listen closely. It's more like 'Hee hee' recorded at 45 rpm and then played back at 33 rpm. It's got overtones of approval and disapproval at the same time. The same with what the press calls cries of 'Oh! Oh! Oh!'. This is really 'Ho ho ho' slowed down and played back with more bass. And a touch of echo."

Wouldn't Mr Huckleby admit that the Parliamentary chorus is rather like a secondary school class barracking a weak teacher?

"Not at all. I'd say it was more like a primary school, played back at half the speed."

Isn't this all rather childish? "Oh, definitely. That's why the public loves it. I know the critics say we sound like a pack of unruly passengers on a charabanc, but let's face it: that's what people identify with. Of course, as the prime mover I have to do a lot of rehearsing."

Rehearsing? How can you rehearse crowd reactions?

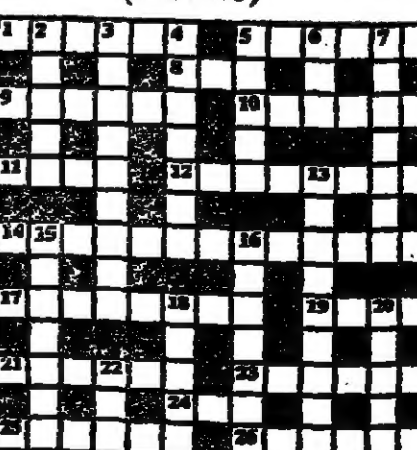
"Easily. Sometimes I practise as a drinker who's just been told it's closing time - lots of MPs are well away, so that's fitting. Sometimes as an England forward being sent off in the French match, sometimes as Cecil Parkinson being found out."

What would happen if he genuinely got angry about something being said in the Commons?

"Oh, we don't actually listen to what's being said, we just listen to the tone of the voice. I'm not sure what would happen if I found myself following the speeches. Drop off to sleep, I expect. The only time I've really been angry was when I noticed Mrs Thatcher edging near the microphone during a Neil Kinnock explosion, and booing into it, rather like herself, half speed. Well, that's not her, that's my job, and I rather told her off, I'm afraid."

Can he remember exactly what he said to her?

"It doesn't really matter, does it? During a Neil Kinnock explosion, all you can hear is Welsh spilt flying into outer space."

CONCISE CROSSWORD
(No 218)

- ACROSS
1 Palm fibre (6)
2 Very alarming (6)
3 Contemptuous shout (3)
4 Negligent (6)
5 Wren up (4)
6 Suspended state (8)
7 Indifferently (13)
8 News summary (8)
9 Immature (4)
10 Leaf main vein (6)
11 Insist upon (6)
12 Exclude (3)
13 Stangle (6)
14 Girl's governors (6)
15 Amphitheatre (9)
16 Very alarming (9)
17 Refrain (7)
18 Castle mound (5)
19 Distinguished Service Order (1,1,1)
20 Dislocated (7)
21 Unscrupulously ambitious person (9)
22 Learned (7)
23 Flower mug (7)
24 Brindled (5)
25 Sea nymph (5)
26 Arbitrator (3)

SOLUTION TO No 217
ACROSS: 1 Lunacy 2 Tumble 3 Chisel 4 Kitchin 5 Skillets 12 Sap 15 Twitche 16 Borneo 17 Bag 27 Homer
DOWN: 1 Loot 2 No inkling 3 Yoke 4 Tuck 5 Robe 6 Dacha 10 Lard 11 Spoon 12 Set voyage 13 Prey 14 Stub 18 Agent 20 Ology 21 Oomph 22 Gown 23 Rest

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THE SPASTICS SOCIETY

BOOKS

Sandy Wilson on the lyrics of Cole Porter and Noel Coward Born to set our toes tapping



Cole Porter with Silk Stockings in 1961

The Complete Lyrics of Cole Porter

Edited by Robert Kibball
(Hamish Hamilton, £25)

The Lyrics of Noel Coward

(Methuen, £9.95, paperback £3.95)

My first memory of a Cole Porter lyric dates back to 1935, when C. B. Cochran presented *Anything Goes* at the Palace Theatre. My entire family went, while I was banished to an aunt

in Scotland, but we had the records on the gramophone and I learned all the words of *You're the Top* - a task rendered far from easy by the fact that Cochran had cast in the part of Reno Sweeney, played on Broadway by Ethel Merman (Porter's favourite vocalist: every syllable of his lyrics hit the back of the balcony), a French lady called Jeanne Aubert. Who is more, some of the lyrics had been Anglicized (by P. G. Wodehouse?) and one couplet went: "You're an ode by a leading songster/You're road where there ain't no

gongster" - a "gongster" being a policeman who, at that time, used to chase speeding motorists, beating, if you can believe it, a gong.

Then came his movie, *Born to Dance*, in which James Stewart sang - not at all badly - one of Porter's best romantic ballads, *Easy to Love*, to Eleanor Powell, and Virginia Bruce, as a Broadway star, vamped him with *I've Got You Under My Skin*, and, during a personal appearance on a battleship (Ah, the Thirties!), sang the musical and lyrical curiosity, *Love Me, Love My Pekingese*. No more Porter shows - such as *Jubilee*, *Red Hot and Blue*, and *Leave It to Me* - came to London in that decade, though some of their songs did; but during the War there was a rash of them: *Dubarry Was a Lady* with Frances Day and Arthur Riscoe, *Panama Hattie* with Bebe Daniels, *Something for the Boys* with Evelyn Dall, *Let's Face It with Bobby Howes* and Pat Kirkwood. The last did quite well, but the other three, which had all starred Merman in New York, failed to make much impact. But at the beginning of the 50s there arrived what many consider his masterpiece, *Kiss Me, Kate*, in which almost every song was perfection in itself and a perfect complement to the libretto. I say "almost" because Porter's wit, so scintillating in the 30s, became a little tarnished in the 40s and in *Brush Up Your Shakespeare* ("Kick her right in the Coriolanus"), downright grubby. His next show, *Out of This World*, a modern version of *Amphitryon*, though a failure, sounds like fun; but both *Can Can* and *Silk Stockings* were heavy-going.

My favourite American lyricist is Lorenz Hart, but Porter was also, of course, like Irving Berlin, his own composer, and although a lyric such as *Night and Day* may not read like much, when it is intricately wedded to its melody it becomes something very special. In his best comedy lyrics, Porter was urbane and delightfully flip, and numbers such as

Let's Not Talk About Love, *Farming and The Leader of a Big Time Band* are comediments of the topics and personalities of the day. Take this from the first: "Let's speak of Lamarr, that Hedy so fair/Why does she let Joan Bennett wear all her old hair?" - who today remembers that the blonde Miss Bennett suddenly went brunette in 1939? And in *Farming* we are told that George Raft's cows fail to call because "George's bull is beautiful, but he's gay" - the first recorded use of the word in that sense (and a bitter loss to lyric-writers, I may say, since it has so many rhymes). It is a measure of the sophistication of Broadway audiences at that time and of the intimacy of Manhattan that almost every one knew who and what he was talking about.

This huge volume contains every single one of Cole Porter's lyrics, from his student days to his death, including many never used or cut from shows. It also has a foreword by John Updike and some attractive photographs (and two wrong captions: on p.138 "Virginia Bruce" should be "Una Merkel" and on p.220 "Janet Blair" should be "Cobina Wright Jr") but at £25 is hardly a snip. However, for Broadway buffs it could be a useful corrective to the often misinformed drive one hears on the radio (usually on Sunday afternoons).

Coincidentally Methuen have republished the collected lyrics of Noel Coward. He once told me that he considered Cole Porter his only peer (he dismissed Hart as "vulgar") and, in a renowned collaboration, he added several choruses to Porter's *Let's Do It*. Coward's lyrics are, I think, better known in this country, perhaps because he recorded so many of them so superbly himself. Porter recorded a few of his - and extremely camp he sounds! There's no one to touch either of them today. I'm afraid in the field of lyric-writing "Anything", it seems, "goes" - and the less one can hear of it, the better!

Hark! hark! the Larkin Required Writing By Philip Larkin (Faber, £4.95)

It is an agreeable irony that the finest critic of our generation should be so reluctant to review. Telephone the Hull University Librarian with the proposition of a book to review, and he will murmur polite velleities that he had more time, and that it had been a detective story or a work about the Beatles. Occasionally Larkin agrees to review, which is why he has called his pieces from the past 30 years *Required Writing*. I can think of few other critics whose reviews would be worth collecting, and none whose collection would show so wide a range, and be so continually surprising and entertaining. The subjects range from the mandarin to the pop, from new ideas about Housman and Marvell, to jazz record reviews and James Film-Bond, the childish Batman from Bladen. One conspicuous quality of Larkin's criticism is its honesty. He is never scared to take the unfashionable view of the Emperor's clothes, whether they are modernism in the arts, Auden's poetry after he left England, the attractions of children, or himself. "Deprivation is for me what daffodils were for Wordsworth."

He is funny as well as sharp: "I should never call myself a book lover, any more than a people lover; it all depends what's inside them." He is sharp as well as funny: "Many poets are perceptive homes, and those innumerable assemblages known as poetry readings are a wonderful new way of being paranoically boring." He is often moving, as when recalling the old excitement of jazz, and always sees further than most of us. That is why it is worth persevering in asking him to review. His collected pieces are required reading, and the next best thing to a new collection of his poems.

Philip Howard

Woodrow Wyatt whales into Greenpeace ... is another man's poisson

Whales

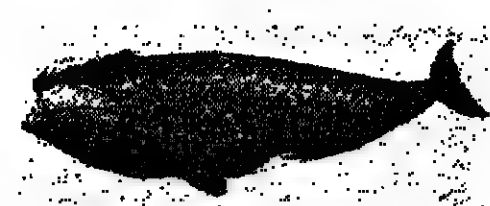
Edited by Greg Gatenby
(Little Brown/Hutchinson, £27.50)

I thought the Greenpeace people were barny before I saw this book. Now I know they are. Whales and dolphins are being slaughtered around the world, with increasing brutality, and are in grave danger of extinction. The thought that these beautiful creatures may be destroyed for ever is troubling in itself; it is also a forerunner of man's inability to control his greed and selfishness. And so the major purpose of *Whales: A Celebration* is to gain support, both financial and moral, for the cause of the cetaceans to demonstrate the strong international objection to their destruction and raise funds for the Greenpeace Foundation's "Save the Whales Campaign".

But Whales have long been in no danger of extinction. The International Whaling Commission was set up in 1946. As a result commercial whaling has been rigorously reduced and controlled. It is estimated that the ten major species have a population of 2.8 million. The total catch for 1983/4 was fixed at a little over 10,000. Whales are making a strong recovery from the depletions of centuries of whaling.

There is a problem with the white Bowhead whale living in the Arctic. These are hunted by Alaskan Eskimos for food and oil. Catching them is a part of the Eskimo culture and whaling is their chief status symbol. Money was injected into the Eskimo economy by companies drilling for oil. So the Eskimos were able to buy more whaling boats and kill more Bowhead whales. Yet I do not think this collection of this and that about whales and dolphins is worth £27.50. I think you wish to subscribe to the Greenpeace Foundation's "Save the Whales Campaign" which is redundant and serves no good at all.

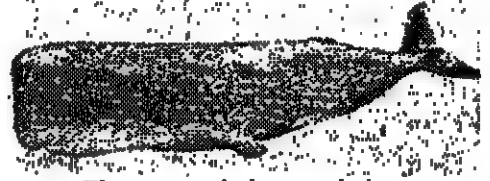
Nowhere are whales under any threat of disappearance from whaling. Pollution in some waters could become dangerous. Shipping noises can disrupt the directional hearing on which whales depend. Fishing for human needs for krill which many whales eat as their staple diet could make it difficult for them but the ecological



The slow-moving southern right whale

balance seems about right; though penguins whose diet is similar to whales' might have something to say about that. The more whales there are the less food for penguins and vice versa. As for the beautiful intelligent dolphins they too, seem to be in no danger of vanishing. In some areas there is a threat to them but not over the world as a whole. Governments are aware that they must be protected. The American tuna industry had problems with dolphins a few years ago because the dolphins got caught in the tuna nets. Stringent regulations have been introduced into this type of fishing to reduce the mortality rate of dolphins. Man, it seems, is considerate for dolphins even when after food for himself.

Naturally none of the cheerful information about how whales and dolphins are getting on is contained in this book. That would spoil the fun. The contributions of the Greenpeace Foundation activists in this area is mainly to get in the way of whale boats fishing to strictly controlled limits in a manner which can be highly dangerous to seamen.



The sperm whale or cachalot

Making newspapers redundant?

The Fifth Generation

Japan's Computer Challenge to the World

By Edward A. Feigenbaum & Pamela McCorduck
(Michael Joseph, £9.95)

The *Fifth Generation* is a lucid and powerful political tract. Its purpose is to launch a billion dollar crusade in the United States to develop computers with Artificial Intelligence. The authors define AI, as it is known in the trade, as "making a computer behave in ways that mimic intelligent human behaviour."

And they make an articulate attempt to persuade us that such machines are worth making.

The Intelligent Newspaper is one of many possibilities discussed in the book: a computer terminal trained to pick out stories that will interest you from hundreds of electronic news sources. Another is a geriatric robot to care for old people while listening to their repetitive stories of the past, without ever becoming bored like a human companion.

But Feigenbaum and McCorduck rely more on the argument of industrial competition. Japan has embarked on a Fifth

Clive Cookson

London and Paris

The success of Hugh Casson's drawings lies in their humanity and sense of scale while his photographic eye enables him to make buildings look right without artistic embellishment. His ability to show in a flash and in a few delicate colours exactly what he wants is a priceless gift.

In Hugh Casson's London (Doubt, £9.95) his anecdotes are always fresh and sometimes quite unbelievable: did he really wear a long college scarf and plus-fours at Cambridge? His staccato prose occasionally brings one up short, but he is never at a loss for an apt adjective.

It is curious that most of the buildings he deals with are actually worth drawing and odd too is the fact that whereas his guardsmen are always correctly upright his civilians normally lean into a strong wind.

The London Encyclopaedia (Macmillan, £24), edited by Ben Weinreb and Christopher Hibbert, aims to tell us everything we should know about London. It relies upon, and acknowledges, many sources including Pevsner and the Survey of London, but I am worried by its inaccuracies. For example, Sir John Soane's Museum is referred to but has no entry; the tower of St Pancras Church is not a copy of

the Tower of the Winds in Athens, but includes some of its design elements and some from the Choragic Monument of Lysicrates. The Hayward Gallery was designed not by Ove Arup and Partners but by the Architects' Department of the GLC under Sir Hubert Bennett. Arup's were the structural consultants.

These mistakes do not amount to much unless you happen to be buffing up your facts for the BBC's *Brain of Britain* contest, but they are there.

Paris (Thames and Hudson, £25) makes a big initial impact. Author John Russell and I are more or less of an age and our first impressions of what I used to think of as the world's most beautiful city were much the same. Here he has made an excellent choice of paintings, prints and above all period photographs, but at first I thought the rather small print of the text was merely to keep the illustrations apart. I was wrong. It has much of interest, perhaps rather too much. The book was first published in 1960 and has been considerably enlarged to use points where it is now almost an encyclopaedia. I wonder if that is a good thing.

Gontran Goulden

Fiction Phagors, fuggies and bips

Heliconia Summer By Brian Aldiss

(Cape, £8.50)

Light By Eva Figes

(Hamish Hamilton, £6.95)

The first volume of Aldiss's *Heliconia* trilogy established an Earth-like planet which, he hoped, mirrored our concerns. "No one wants a passport to a nation of talking slugs." There was nothing sluggy about *Heliconia*. *Spring* except its pace which, for me at least, destroyed that planet's "particular interest for the people of Earth." It read like a sophisticated shaggy-dog story revolving slowly around the rivalry between man and that beast-species (which can see in the dark and stand motionless for hours) - the phagor.

Things hot up considerably in this second instalment. It concentrates on the events of six months rather than hundreds of years and it consigns the phagors, albeit temporarily, to a servile role. The King of Borlien, a moody mixture of Hamlet and Henry the Eighth, becomes convinced his country will only survive if it enters an alliance with neighbouring Olorando. He is persuaded to divorce his beautiful Queen - on the pretext that she has consorted carnally with dolphins - and marry the 11-year-old Princess of Olorando.

Never mind that the characters have names like runny noses, for this is a familiar tale, told intelligently and with assurance, of survival and

power and love; a tale which smacks less of science fiction than medieval romance. What jars is the method by which we are made aware it is science fiction. Scrutinizing the antics of King Janoliel Anganol and Queen Myrdem Ingalea (try those without a hanky) is a spaceship from Earth on which is held, for it, the Heliconian Holiday Lottery. Tab winner, in this case a boy called Billy, gets a one-way ticket to a Heliconia knowing full well he will succumb to the helico-virus and die. I could have done without Billy.

This novel's strength over its predecessor lies as much in the structure as the story, which, narrated in a round-about way, emphasizes *Heliconia*'s principal difference with Earth - the length of his years. Other differences are conveyed by means of an indigenous vocabulary. In some places its details are so dense and technical that one glosses over them; in others a glossary is needed to distinguish between fessups, fuggies and stungebags. In the main, though, this vocabulary does give credence to a successfully imagined world. It doesn't make a specialist's understanding of the Heliconian girl who complains "you're hurting my bips."

"I have had my vision," proclaims the artist Lily Brisco at the end of *To the Lighthouse*. I have almost had Eva Figes's. One cries Woolf yet again in reading *Light* which was shortlisted for the Whitbread Fiction Prize. One also cries Figes. "Light", began her last novel *Waking*, which in its limpid, poetic prose recalled *The*

Waves. "Glowing yellow. It spills into the room of wavering shadows and forms a pool on the floor." Not much has changed in *Light*, where "strips of light spilled on the waxed floor in bright pools."

This novella follows a day in the life of the Monet family from dawn to dusk one summer's day at Giverny. The style, like the content, is impressionistic. "We live in a luminous cloud of changing light, a sort of envelope," explains Monet. "That is what I have to catch." In the blue-grey hush before dawn he goes to paint his lily pond in which, like a polished mirror, is trapped earth, water and sky. He blows smoke rings and feels himself inside an "aquamarine bubble."

On dry land, as the sun floods the air with "white and gold, so the style, like the content, is impressionistic. "We live in a luminous cloud of changing light, a sort of envelope," explains Monet. "That is what I have to catch." In the blue-grey hush before dawn he goes to paint his lily pond in which, like a polished mirror, is trapped earth, water and sky. He blows smoke rings and feels himself inside an "aquamarine bubble."

Nicholas Shakespeare

Crime Hard truths about prejudice

The Dark Fantastic By Stanley Ellin

(Andre Deutsch, £8.95)

Here is a book by one of the truth-tellers. In crime fiction, where emphasis is placed on, but boiling up excitement, ingenious reader tricking, and other tradesmen's devices, such books are rare, though Ellin is by no means the only truth-teller in the field. But he is decidedly there, in whatever aspect of his story he is handling. The nasty equally with the good are depicted so as you believe this is what such people are like, through and through. The tough and the touching, the hater and the lovers, all are made to seem real.

But excitement, that contractual quality in this sort of novel, is in no way sacrificed. Ellin's story tells of a madman, or near madman, determined to blow up a New York tenement inhabited by blacks and of the Italian-American private investigator who, by chance, is drawn into discovering what is happening. And Ellin tells this tale for a reason: to write about prejudice. Centrally he con-

siders race prejudice, that itch so much more deeply embedded in the American psyche than in ours. (After all, it was at the heart of their Civil War almost within living memory, as ours with its equivalent religious prejudice is not.) But peripherally Ellin is able to deal with national prejudice and sex prejudice too, each reflecting on his theme, neither ousting his story.

Add that he writes American, that invigoratingly punchy language, and you have a book to savour. There are one-liners in the high tradition (a man "so cagey he wouldn't enter a confession without taking his lawyer along") and there are incidental phrases sharp as cattle-goats ("The sight... goosed Mustache into action"). These come by the dozen. They speed you along at stampede pace.

The Hanging Tree, by Bill Knox (Hutchinson, £7.95). Scots-eye-view of the newest major crime, video, piracy, with not even murder barred. If you can imagine porridge made exciting, this is it.

State's Evidence, by Stephen Greenleaf (New English Library, £8.95). Today's version of the classic American private-eye tale with all the good ingredients, plus, alas, a plethora of long words over too many pages.

The Pangersbourne Murders, by Jeremy Smeck (Hale, £7.95). Rollicking Georgian investigation into horrid malfeasance. Period detail pops up a-gogo, if not always quite convincingly.

The Russian Intelligence, by Michael Moorcock (The English Library, £7.95). Can you revise a jape? S.F. prodigal prizewinner Moorcock has with this 1966 nudge-nudge spy frolic re-vamped, bludgeoned sarcasm and all.

The Cruise of a Deathtime, by Marian Babson (Collins, £6.75). Cumulative corpses aboard, with a sharp look at maritime fun. Miss Babson happily and adroitly light fantastics the trip.

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THE TIMES DIARY

Going up, and up

The Chief of the Defence Staff has always been chosen according to the principle of Buggins' turn, the heads of the three services rotating as overall chief. According to these rules, the next Chief should be Air Chief Marshal Sir Keith Williamson. It is far more likely, however, that he will be passed over in favour of Sir John Aldhouse, Chief of Naval Staff and First Sea Lord, who distinguished himself during the Falklands war. Last month, Sir John received a further distinction: he was made an honorary member of the Halley's Comet Society in a ceremony which took place in the King Henry VIII cellar at the Ministry of Defence.

Mandarin red

The Association of First Division Civil Servants, which is affiliated to the TUC, has a suitably workmanlike diary for 1984. It is bound in dark red leatherette and contains a London underground map and lists of leave allowances. Fittingly, for such a top people's union, it also includes a vintage chart.

'Ark at that

London schoolchildren sang a new, downbeat carol at the ILEA carol festival earlier this week. Called *The Reindeer Song*, its chorus goes: "I'm a fourth-rate, clapped-out reindeer. Can't get my footwork right, I'm gonna wreck that Yuletide sleigh-ride. Gonna goof it on the night."

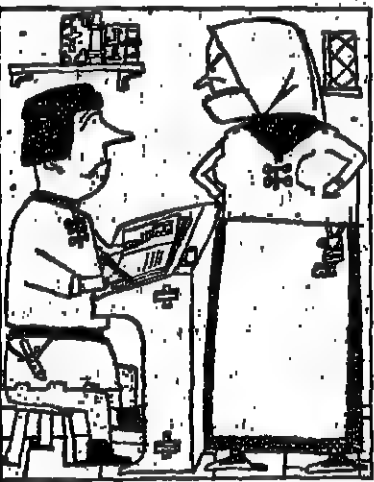
ILEA music coordinator Rosemary Mitchell, who wrote the lyrics, said she thought all the existing reindeer songs "very mawkish". She describes her new version as "a street-culture kind of song - the children sing it in a very London way, like street arabs."

Discussing the noble pedigree of George de Stacpoule, new-born heir to a viscountcy, marquisate and Ireland's only papal dukedom, the *Irish Independent* insists that the baby's ancestors came over with Sir William the Conqueror.

Flat out

Anyone about to park a radio-controlled toy car in a Christmas stocking should be aware that a full-sized family car is probably cheaper to run. A collector returned a toy version to the shop where he had bought it the day before his son's birthday. He complained that the toy had ceased to function quite early on the birthday morn and was told, "It's the batteries, Sir. They only last seven minutes." At £1.20 a set, that's more expensive than that three-star petrol.

BARRY FANTONI



"Books, books, books... we'll get fat on books"

Software

In announcing voting procedures for the *Today* programme's Man and Woman of the Year event, announcer Peter Hobday seemed to be asking for the title of Male Chauvinist of the Year for himself. He asked listeners who wished to nominate both a man and a woman to list the names on separate postcards because the BBC's computer could not cope with two surnames on one card - "the computer, I'm afraid, being somewhat human and female."

Going down roses

Next April, Chatto and Windus publish *A Nice Girl Like Me*, an account of journalist Rosie Boycott's battle with alcohol. The catalogue description runs: "After her time at the exclusive Cheltenham Ladies' College, Rosie found her way into the London counter-culture of the Seventies, experimenting with drugs, sex and booze. She wound up in a Thai jail on drug smuggling charges. She spent time in an Indian ashram watching a friend die of cancer. Then somehow it all went wrong."

Jacked-up

London's casino owners had better look sharp now Doug is back in town. Doug isn't his real name but then neither is Frank Dracman, which he sometimes uses. Two years ago, Doug bought a computer and taught himself how to programme it to keep track of every single card dealt during a game of blackjack. Fuzzed casino owners in Las Vegas aren't sure what he's up to but a lot of them, knowing he's up to something, have denied him entrance. Doug reasons that if he gets thrown out of every casino in America, he may have to settle here, hence his reluctance to reveal his real name. He can be seen on television in *A Wedding in Las Vegas*, on BBC1 on December 27. What you can't see is how he uses computer technology to get a mathematical advantage over the casino.

PHS

Coming to terms with the evil eye

As the House of Lords prepares to debate the television of its proceedings, Austin Mitchell MP urges his colleagues in both houses to take the last steps towards admitting the cameras

The Commons are dithering on the brink of television. Resistance looks dated and last-ditch. Yet we will still have to be pushed into our final decision. That push into the twentieth century could well be administered by a bastion of the nineteenth, the House of Lords.

Instead of concentrating on the realities of our role and how it can be made relevant to a modern society in which people get most of their news and information from television, the argument in Parliament has been dominated by prejudice and fear. Most MPs still like to see the chamber as a forum for persuasion by deliberation. In fact, of course, we have government by party, the verdict pre-ordained. Yet the party battle can have no sin, its stage no audience, unless both reach the public. At the moment, they clearly do not. On this rational basis, there is no real argument against television. We use it or Parliament continues to decline in reliance, respect and public standing.

Television has the audience whose attention the politicians seek. Unable to cover parliamentary politics in any media-logic way, it has been forced to stage its own political circus with Sir Robin and Alistair and others as ring masters. We now view the results with a mixture of fear and envy, eager to appear but always ready to cry foul.

Parliament deals with eternal verities; television sensationalizes, trivializes, dilutes with entertainment. In short, it distorts. But the other fear is contradictory. We also worry that television will show Parliament's reality, the vast acres of empty benches, MPs sleeping, gossiping, picking their noses,

or alternatively shouting, screaming, hounding Mrs Thatcher and generally re-enacting feeding time at Whipsnade.

The arguments against admitting the cameras are as strong, as prejudiced and as irrelevant as ever, but the Commons have now voted, albeit by a small majority, in favour of the principle.

Younger MPs are less deferential to encrusted tradition; public opinion is in favour and most other legislatures have shown the way. Finally, cable is coming, with it the ability to do what radio should be doing: providing continuous coverage of the kind that those interested can tune into and drop out of as they wish.

This is the importance of the Lords' vote. Because television confers importance on anything it covers - indeed many people assume that nothing can be important unless covered by television - televising the Lords would threaten the Commons', primacy. More important, though, the Lords can show that television can improve and

not demean, that serious discussion of serious issues does occur.

It's a shame that the raw material, their lordships, is not as good as we can offer. Yet their experience will allow fears to vanish like mists before the rising sun. Soon we will all be wondering why we never had television before. What took us so long?

Which leaves only the technical problem of what kind of coverage. My own Bills have been based on introducing the Canadian system: coverage by unobtrusive, wall-mounted cameras, neutral mid-shots of the Member speaking with no cutaways or reaction shots, the whole controlled by the Commons itself, just as *Hansard* is. This makes for duller television - the broadcasting organizations are not happy with it - but I opted for it because it makes introduction easier.

Unfortunately, such coverage is expensive: installation in the USA cost \$1.2m. The television channels can be asked to contribute but the costs must come from the public purse, which is hardly an attractive proposal for a government like the present. The Lords, being bolder spirits, may well opt for the alternative, which is to hand themselves over to the TV organizations.

The Government could opt for a compromise: outside money, ultimate control inside. These considerations are tactical and technical. The reality is that we stand on the brink of change. The Government should take us there.

The author is Labour MP for Grimsby.

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Land of myth and missile: Roger Boyes reports from East Germany

Behind the wire, a chill wind of war

War and peace, hell and heaven: visions of the apocalypse crowd the thicket woodland of Thuringia, with its witches and its imps, its T-72 tanks and sparkling new missiles. This is the front line of the Warsaw Pact and the nervousness of the East Germans is everywhere in evidence. In the air there is *Kriegsstimmung*, war-mood, though the official talk is of peace, of special peace: it is the rhetoric of concerts for peace, of peace film festivals.

Soviet soldiers are ubiquitous: political officers with relatively long hair and bulging briefcases read *Izvestia* on the commuter trains, callow conscripts from Kirghizia, barely able to speak Russian and bewildered by the Germans, thrust a movement order at a passer-by, hoping for directions they can understand. The smell of their damp snooded gardenia mingles with the scents of Christmas, the pine and the candles.

"Hell, we know from Thuringian mythology, is in East Germany. The story goes that a pious English noblewoman (queen in some accounts) named Reinswig was informed that her husband, recently dead, could be heard howling and screaming in hell's torment from deep within a cave in the village of Seestadt. At the entrance of hell, she set up a chapel to administer to the damned and for a while the soul of her husband was at peace.

Nowadays in Seestadt the images of hell and the loud gnashing of teeth come from the television sets. Almost every household in East Germany - the notable exception is Dresden - can pick up West German television and there was scarcely a family in the state that did not follow the recent parliamentary debates in Bonn on the stationing of cruise and Pershing. For once the *Schwarze Kanal* - the Black Channel - did not undermine the East German propaganda machine, but rather supported it, fed the new myths of Thuringia to the East German viewer.

It seemed as if devil-in-the-flesh Reagan, assisted ably by his apprentice Helmut Kohl, had trampled on public opinion and imposed a new tension on East-West relations that would above all hurt the German people. Do you think this is going to make it any easier for us to travel to the West? It's a mistake, a blunder," said a young teenager who in the West would clearly have been a Green.



The Bundestag vote, poached from the television screens, had other effects on the public mood: it made it easier for those whose official role is to justify new Soviet missiles to the East German population and it has made the work of the fledgling unofficial peace movement in Eastern Europe more difficult (though, they would say, more urgent).

Red banners in Weimar, in Erfurt, shout about the indestructible friendship with the Soviet Union and the Soviet army, rather than an Oxford Street tout will hoarsely advertise the merits of a toy designed to withstand the bombardment of a three-year-old. The Russians are known, often ironically, sometimes with a pitying shrug, as the "friends". There are quite a lot of friends: most western estimates say 380,000 men in East Germany, a large proportion of them in Thuringia. Add some 10,000 main battle tanks and the armoury of long and not-so-long-range missiles and it becomes clear that this friendship, if not indestructible, is at least enduring.

Moreover with an East German "people's army" of 115,000 and an active force of 50,000 border troops, there seems little doubt that this is one of the most densely militarized areas in the world. As befits a friendship sealed in Potsdam rather than heaven, the Russians keep their distance. In their Erfurt barracks they have their own cinema, library and clubroom. When they come to town they are kept on a tight leash.

Free German Youth (FDJ) activists deny there is any tension between the Russians and the East

Germans and say too that the new western missiles will cement the relationship. "As soon as the Bundestag made its decisions there were spontaneous meetings in factories to discuss the situation. There is no room for doubt any more."

But there are doubters still. Many church communities have been expressing their fears about the new Soviet missiles, though they must do so discreetly, for this is dangerous terrain. Speakers at the recent Mecklenburg synod criticized the missiles, and the parish of Babelsberg sent a letter to the party leader, Erich Honecker - printed in the party daily *Neues Deutschland* - saying they were deeply afraid of a "deterioration in the situation between the two superpowers" (without pinning the blame solely on the United States).

The sword-into-ploughshares symbol of the East German peace movement, possession of which was once enough to attract attention and questioning, is back, printed on booklets and pamphlets.

The difference between the West and East German peace movements, besides the obvious contrasts in size and legality, is that the West is concerned with protesting against its limited sovereignty, the sense of powerlessness that comes when American hardware is distributed throughout the German countryside. The East Germans have lived with limited sovereignty for a long time and they know that a Soviet withdrawal is not feasible, not a realistic goal.

Instead, the movement - nobody knows how many people it em-
braces, perhaps several hundred in Jena and East Berlin - concentrates on trying to slow down the pace of the militarization of East German society. Priests complain that children have problems at school if they do not take part in para-military training, that apprentices are forced as part of their contract to take part in shooting exercises.

The peace activists in Jena, some of whom are now in jail, want more open discussion of the possibility of a nuclear-free Europe; the honouring of the right of conscripts to serve in construction brigades rather than carry arms; a guarantee that women will not be recruited into the army. The harassment of these activists continues.

But in general *Kriegsstimmung* leads not to dissident pressure for action against Soviet missiles, but rather for a more sympathetic attitude to Honecker's leadership. This Mr Honecker exploits with some tactical skill. He tells the Central Committee that new Soviet missiles will be stationed at a faster rate to counter the cruise and Pershing, but this is firmly identified as the fault of the West. At the same time he declares that he is open to any new initiative to improve relations with Bonn.

It is the mime of injured innocence, an oddly credible act for his citizens. And somewhere amid all the manoeuvring, buck-passing and propaganda games, the actual cause of the fuss, the stationing of Soviet SS-20 missiles, has been forgotten, buried under the images of nuclear war and nuclear peace, of hell and heaven.

Ronald Butt

Floored by their very own flaw

Mr Giles Radice, Labour spokesman on education, Mr Fred Jarvis of the National Union of Teachers, and Mr John Swallow, president of the National Association of Head Teachers, have pronounced judgment on the Cox-Marks report on *Standards in English Schools*. Their finding is that the Department of Education and Science has been "radically" flawed.

Baroness Cox and Dr John Marks, of the National Council for Educational Standards, had produced a report whose research showed that the examination results of grammar and secondary modern schools together were better than those of comprehensive schools. It immediately encountered bitter hostility from educational writers. Sir Keith Joseph, Education Secretary, then asked the DES statisticians to appraise the report. Subsequently, a series of leaks from the DES told the world that the Cox-Marks research had been found, by the department's experts, to be "seriously flawed".

Verbatim extracts of parts of the DES critique, selected to convey this message, appeared in parts of the press, but Baroness Cox and Dr Marks were in no position to defend their research since the DES would not give them a copy. Eventually, however, the authors managed to get a copy from a journalist less hostile to their point of view. They also received a letter from Sir Keith Joseph refusing any DES funding for their future research, but suggesting a meeting between the authors and DES statisticians.

The meeting took place in the presence of Sir Keith, and the statisticians admitted that an error of their own in appraising the report had been responsible for the doubts about the representativeness of the Cox-Marks sample. They were now reassured that the sample had been representative.

The only significant question remaining was how far class and economic circumstances were material to such research. It was agreed that the Cox-Marks report had taken account of as much evidence of this sort as was available from the DES, but that the DES ought to, and would, make more such evidence generally available.

Thus an amicable conclusion was reached, after which Sir Keith published the agreed DES statement welcoming the pioneering work of the NCES, and accepting its statistical validity. Contrary to some reports, he said, the DES did not regard it as "seriously flawed". Where, then, had this accusation come from? Not from the chief statistician, Mr Wakefield, who pointed out that he had never used it.

The question is of considerable interest now that Mr Radice, writing to *The Times* (Dec 3) has condemned the "blatant political pressure applied in an attempt to override the DES's careful assessment of the report" and Mr Jarvis and Mr Swallow in a further letter (Dec 6), have said that Sir Keith should speak up for his staff against its critics given the "constitutional limitation" (no irony is presumably intended) on their freedom to respond to public criticism. Having now obtained a copy of the leaked (if less than "careful") DES critique, I am able to explain all, and a wondrous story it is. The critique was in three parts. First, there was the statisticians' report. This, despite its own admitted statistical error, was by no means crudely hostile to the Cox-Marks research, which it recognized as pioneering work serving "a most useful purpose."

Paul Pickering

Run from the rabbit, run, run

An enormous white rabbit is lurking among the slag heaps of south Yorkshire, having evaded the efforts of the local constabulary and rabbit experts brought in to track him down. Buck, as he is called, is from New Zealand and is apparently rather larger than a Labrador, being four and a half feet long. He has a nasty temper when roused.

"It's a sign," said my grandfather. "White beasts are always a portent of doom and disaster, and things going wrong in the world." Certainly if one caught sight of pink-eyed Buck staring to dig Bakewell Line-sized burrows under one's house it would be bad luck indeed.

Buck is dangerous when cornered, and far from the well-behaved, cultured creature with a waistcoat and pocket watch, that Alice meets in Wonderland, he has a hatred of the precious Pommie attitude to rabbits as cuddly bundles of fur who will repay with affection a draughty hutch and occasional mouldy cabbage. He loathes children.

"If threatened by a stranger, Buck would first try to find a way out, to run," said his owner, Mr Arthur Butterfield. "But then, if there was nowhere left to go, he would stand and fight, biting and scratching with his teeth and claws. He is very powerful." In short, Buck is the rabbit equivalent of Roy Dick.

"He was always at right with me though," said Arthur, a former haulage contractor who took to rabbits after his business folded. "You just have to get to know him, but my wife could not get near him. He didn't like anyone he didn't know and would never let children play with him."

There's no way a total stranger could do anything with him, and a friend of mine got terrible scratches when we were having a look at an inch long and razor sharp. If someone has rustled him, he must have had a struggle."

But sightings of the antipodean

Secondly, there was the department's own "commentary" (also six pages) by the schools' branch. Though it spoke of "serious criticisms" of data and methodology, it noted the report's "stimulus to public debate" particularly since "exam results are now very much on the agenda in comparing different types of school system." But what matters is the third part, a two-page covering memorandum by Mr N. W. Stuart of the School Branch.

"Attached is the Department's commentary commissioned by the Secretary of State," he wrote. "It concludes that the research methods were flawed to the extent that the findings must be open to serious question." As for the "elusive prospect" of a final, decisive piece of research to resolve the difference between the two sides of the schools system argument, "I am driven towards the conclusion that this is a fundamental political and philosophical divide, with research just one of the instruments of battle."

This was "important in considering where we go next". If the NCES were refused funding, Mr Stuart wrote, the Secretary of State would "upset his political friends." But if he said yes, there would be "upshot in academic circles (which, precisely, I wonder?) where there is no confidence in the NCES's professional ability to conduct statistically-based research."

There must, he thought, be a temptation to "hold the ring" and for the DES itself to commission an authoritative piece of research work in this area. He then describes, briefly, two possible models for it, adding blandly: "Whatever the model, a good deal of further work would be needed (and I note now that at its present complement the branch does not have the manpower available to take this on) before research bodies were invited to tender for what would be an expensive and lengthy project."

Oh, Sir Humphrey, bow your head for you have met your better! Was there ever a neater way of condemning a piece of research, unheard, behind the closed doors of Whitehall, and of putting its purpose on ice? But it was the leaked polemic of the edited condemnation (of which, of course, I do not suggest that Mr Stuart himself was aware) which was the really heavy stuff, denigrating *bona fide* research which would have been defenceless if Sir Keith had not intervened.

Such is the officialdom to whose rescue Messrs Jarvis, Swallow and Radice gallop with, as their only ammunition, a letter from Mr Wakefield to the NCES authors, and Sir Keith Joseph's letter turning down the DES funds application, both of which were written before the departmental retraction. They should do their homework better.

All this has serious educational implications but it is also an example of an increasingly prevalent kind of Whitehall leak (particularly from the "social" departments, which have their own highly politicized positions) designed to frustrate any development repugnant to received departmental doctrine.

The attempted discrediting of the Cox-Marks report is one of three such incidents from the DES. It has backed, and the authors have been able to defend themselves, but only by accident. It is, of course, the business of the journalist (with few exceptions) to publish what he can get from any source. But it is not the business of civil servants to indulge in this kind of politics. When a department has something of this sort to say, it should say it openly, provided its Minister agrees.

But why no artistry on the outside too?

Just over a year ago Michael Heseltine, the minister concerned, announced that all the schemes in the competition for the National Gallery extension on the adjoining bomb site had been rejected, but that one of the three finalists, Ahrends Burton & Koralek (ABK), in association with Trafalgar House, had been invited to meet the trustees to produce a mutually acceptable scheme.

At last the new scheme has been unveiled, prior to an application for planning permission and an inevitable public inquiry. The original competition, a joint affair which combined architects and property developers, resulted in almost as chaotic a situation as most Victorian competitions, in which, notoriously, the winner never got to build his design. As well as ABK, designs by the well-known American architectural firm of Skidmore, design, by Mr Heseltine in a fit of patriotism - this was not long after the Falklands war - decided on a British firm and chose ABK. The

Richard Rogers design had been damned by the praise of the president of RIBA for the way it said "and you" to the other buildings in Trafalgar Square; this inaugurated a new phase of architectural criticism. As might be imagined, the designer of the Pompidou Centre in Paris and the new Lloyds Building in the City had draped the outside of his building in brightly coloured pipes, and at the corner by the Gallery he had designed a tower in the form of an oil rig.

ABK, on the other hand, had eschewed all such flashiness and designed a building surprisingly Roman in character, a square block, the inside scooped out in a great crescent, from which you entered the gallery, the elevations strongly symmetrical with Caracalla-like windows and a curved roof pierced with oval lunettes.

The design had a gravitas suitable to its position and although, like all the other designs (because of the brief), did not make any attempt to improve the facade of the National Gallery itself - which has always proved an unsatisfactory backdrop to one of London's very few imperial spaces - did at least offer an architecture which could happily take its place beside its neighbours in Pall Mall East.

It has been questioned whether the Gallery needs the extra space, but even if it does, no effort was made to consider any other solution to its problems. The most obvious would be to extend the National Gallery upwards and pay for this by selling the bomb site to the highest bidder. But one of the troubles with competitions is that the brief is fixed.

So the architects were landed with the problem of designing a building with mutually incompatible functions, an art gallery above a prestige office block. An office on this site can only be used as a headquarters building, which Trafalgar House intends. It was no doubt this almost impossible task that caused all the delays in announcing the new scheme.

But alas it has meant that all the quality of the original design has been lost in the process. Instead of the elegant window we saw in a typical framed building of the late 1960s, sheets of glass below for the offices and panels of Bath stone above. This stone contrasts insensitively with the Portland stone of some of the plinths in the new building, and of course the new buildings to either side of the extension.

As far as the public is concerned is a glass-faced tower which, like the Seifert Prudential building in the City, ends in a series of stone planes and what look like scaffolding poles.

The circular court is retained from the earlier but to little purpose now since the entrance is from the street by the tower. The courtyard is left merely to generate a minor cyclone round which all the rubbish of Trafalgar Square will blow.

Perhaps it is too much to expect today that we might see classical architecture on a public building (though many buildings in the private sector now being built, even in the City, are using classical details) but it is too much to ask that an extension to the most important of English art galleries could at least have some art, either sculpture or murals, on the outside?

And for that matter, why must all the galleries be barren of any art, except, just great bland shells to exhibit art divorced from all human contact and anything that can give it life?

A great deal more work must be done before this building can become a worthy addition to even long and razor sharp. If someone has rustled him, he must have had a struggle."

But sightings of the antipodean

Roderick Gradidge



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TIME TO SIT TIGHT

It is very tempting for Britain to sit back and enjoy the crisis into which the failure of the Athens summit has plunged the European Community. The essence of British complaints about the Community has always been that it is too expensive, and that far too high a proportion of the money spent goes on agriculture, a sector which is relatively less important in the British economy than in those of most of our partners. In the past Britain has been able to do little about this except rant and rave. By behaving very badly, we have each year managed to bully or cajole our partners into giving us some of our money back.

We had to behave badly, because the rules were loaded against us before we ever joined the Community, through a deal between France and West Germany in the mid 1960s. France got the Common Agricultural Policy as the price for opening its market to German industrial goods. The policy meant that agricultural products could be sold throughout the Community at a fixed price, protected by a common external tariff and maintained through a common fund which purchased any surplus. By a further twist, the prices of many products were fixed higher than France would have required, so as to ensure that West Germany's relatively inefficient farmers did not lose out.

Britain, with few, but relatively efficient, farmers, and with consumers used to cheap imported food, had little to gain from this arrangement but until now has lacked the clout to get it

changed. At last the ever-rising cost of the policy has provided us with a lever, as well as bringing at least some of our partners some of the way round to our point of view. Others beside us are beginning to feel the expenditure pinch. In any case the Community cannot, without a unanimous decision of its members, extract from them more than one per cent of value added in all taxable transactions. Spending as it now is, the Community is about to hit its head against that ceiling, and the ceiling cannot be raised without British consent.

Britain wants a package of reforms including reduced expenditure. If Britain is not satisfied expenditure will have to be reduced anyway. So this time Britain does not need to behave badly. She can sit demure and smug, with arms folded, until her partners come up with a proposal she is willing to accept.

That being so, suggestions that we should withhold our budget contribution or resort to sanctions against our partners are quite unnecessary and betray a misunderstanding of the situation. They would only be in order if our partners resort to breaking the rules in an attempt to ignore our demands. On this issue we can afford a policy of "no first strike".

What we should be doing now is calculating the price we can reasonably expect to charge for our eventual agreement to an increase in "own resources", and deploying our most intense and persuasive diplomacy to convince our partners - that is, public opinion as well as govern-

ments in fellow member-states - that it is a price worth paying because the Community as a whole, not just Britain, needs an equitable financial system and a reasonable balance of expenditure. There is no need to envenom the atmosphere. On the contrary, we can afford, and we need, to mount an *offensive de charme*.

We should draw attention, especially, to the plight of the most innocent victims of the present crisis: the Spanish and Portuguese, who are waiting for the Community to pull itself together sufficiently to give a clear answer to their applications for membership. It is in the context of their joining, as members with a lower than average per capita GNP, that an overall increase in Community expenditure would actually make some sense. The package that includes such an increase must also include terms for their admission. Otherwise there is a real risk that Spanish attitudes to the Community, in particular, will go sour.

Spain, like Britain, has historically been ambivalent about her relationship to the European continent. In the last ten years or so she has made tremendous efforts to affirm her European identity. If now rebuffed, or kept waiting indefinitely on the doorstep, she may have second thoughts. That would have negative implications for her membership of Nato, for the prospects of defusing the Gibraltar issue (and so for Anglo-Spanish bilateral relations), and perhaps even for Spanish democracy. Avoiding it should be a high priority, for Britain and for Europe.

ANSWERING THAT FILM

Lord Reith observed in 1927 that he and his BBC colleagues had "responsibilities far heavier than had ever fallen to the lot of any other group of individuals". Even Lord Reith perhaps dropped this hyperbole in a spirit of sombre reality, but his successors have never lost sight of the weight of responsibility that control of the media imposes. Neither have politicians, who sometimes court and sometimes resent the independence of those in charge of the means of publicity. A complex and partly unwritten code governs the relationship between government and broadcasters. Mr Michael Heseltine is reported to have proposed a new clause in that code by asking for exclusive television time to make a comment at the end of the film *The Day After* on ITV on Saturday.

Reviewers who saw the film in the USA last month found it sentimental and unsubtle, but striking in dramatic force and technical effects. Mr Heseltine's desire to strike out into the field of dramatic criticism has less to do with production values than with possible political effect. Fiction does not have to be a major work of art to have political impact. *Uncle Tom's*

Cabin was also sentimental, but it made people attend to a great injustice, and its influence on opinion was profound.

Mr Heseltine is acutely aware of the danger of letting the unilateralists gain the initiative in the debate over defence. The danger is real. CND is preparing itself to capitalize on fears and dependencies that the film may provoke. The Government is right to respond energetically. The horrors of nuclear war are evidence that can be turned to account by advocates of security through deterrence and the search for peace through bilateral negotiation, quite as relevantly as by unilateralists. It is well for the public to be reminded of what is at stake from time to time, as Mr Heseltine appreciated when he urged people to see the film.

But to seek exclusive time to put an official gloss on the film immediately after it is broadcast risks making the film out to be more important than it is. Mr George Shultz did so in the USA, but the conventions are different there, and perhaps the message implicit in such a step is different. No minister in Britain has ever sought a right of television reply to a work of fiction, however distorted he

may have considered it to be. Such a precedent would harmfully trivialize ministerial statements and express lack of trust in the judgments of the broadcasting authorities and of the public.

The Secretary of State has the option of requesting a formal ministerial broadcast, which would go out on all channels - BBC as well as ITV - and would give opposition parties a right of reply. The unwritten code does not oblige the authorities to accede to his request, but they would be unlikely to refuse even where it was so plainly an excessive response. Mr Heseltine has been invited to take part in the discussion programme afterwards, but such programmes rarely rise far above the bandying of slogans, and he is right to be reluctant. A minister of the Crown never lacks means of making his views public, and it is an error to give the appearance of trying to get round the conventions by seeking what would in effect be a ministerial broadcast, without right of reply for his opponents. The British public is not so immature that it cannot be trusted to keep its head over a piece of science fiction.

NEWS MANAGEMENT IN MOSCOW

The appearance of Soviet leaders at press conferences in Moscow is part of a more sophisticated approach to the Western media; it is not however a step towards more open government. The job of a foreign correspondent in the USSR is difficult. If he pursues the news in a manner considered normal in other countries, he risks immediate expulsion for espionage. He is obliged to obtain permission from the authorities before making any trip out of the capital. Yet if he confines himself to analysing reports in the official press he may as well operate at home and save his employers the vast expense of maintaining a Moscow correspondent.

The Kremlin has long been distributing its own publications, translated into the major languages of the world, in the hope of influencing public opinion outside the Soviet block. Like the foreign broadcasts of Moscow Radio, however, these periodicals are so clearly propagandist in style and content that their impact is minimal. Now the Soviet leaders have discovered that if they are prepared to be photographed and interviewed by foreign correspondents, their views are assured more news space and attention in the West than when merely circulated in their own controlled media.

Monday's press conference with three leading Soviet spokesmen, including Marshal Nikolai Ogarkov, the Chief of Staff, was aimed at persuading the public in NATO countries that their government, by proceeding with the deployment of US missiles in Western Europe, were wholly responsible for the Soviet departure from the Geneva talks on intermediate nuclear forces. Moscow was clearly sending a message to those who wish to disarm the West unilaterally, encouraging them to continue their demonstrations. Mr Georgy Kornienko, a deputy foreign minister, denied claims by Western leaders that Soviet negotiators would soon return to Geneva "as if nothing had happened" and Marshal Ogarkov hinted that the strategic arms talks (START) which end their current round on Thursday are also at risk. He also seized the opportunity to attack the US air raid on Syrian positions in Lebanon, calling it "bandit action".

The problem for the organizers of such press conferences is that Western correspondents are undisciplined, and persistently ask awkward questions. Queried about the state of President

Andropov's health, and as to whether he was recovering from

a serious operation, to account for his non-appearance for 110 days, Mr Leonid Zamyatin angrily repeated the official line that the Soviet leader, who has not been seen in public since mid-August, had been suffering from a cold, but was now able to deal with the main matters of government.

While earlier press conferences, such as that held in April by the Foreign Minister and Politburo member Andrei Gromyko, were obviously presenting the views of the top party leadership, both this latest session and the September conference on the Korean airliner gave prominence to the military in the person of Marshal Ogarkov. But this does not mean that the military are determining foreign policy in the absence of firm leadership by President Andropov. All three leaders at Monday's press conference are members of the party's Central Committee. Marshal Ogarkov is also First Deputy Defence Minister, the Defence Minister himself, Marshal Dimitri Ustinov, is a full member of the ruling Politburo. There is no evidence to suggest that any major divergence exists in the foreign policy aims of party leadership and military command. Both are firmly united in their hostility towards the West.

journalist to bring out a paper when we had no local quarrel. Among those who supported my stand at that time were people as diverse as Mr Joe Wade, of the NGA, and the late Lord Kemsley. When, on December 4, NGA members at the *News of the World* decided to censor an article, I bled, not for Sir Woodrow Wyatt as the concerned journalist and not for the *News of the World*, but for some NGA members who use their temporary muscle to show in this

instance not contempt of court, but contempt for journalism. I hope those who see their path to trade union triumph marked by square white blanks in the free press realise that the union might fail to secure a chair for itself in this game of musical chairs if free trade unionism is one day itself destroyed and the music stops. Yours faithfully, CLAUD MORRIS, 15a Lowndes Street, SW1, December 15.

NGA dispute

From Mr Claud Morris
Sir, Some years ago, in a now forgotten national print dispute, I resigned the chairmanship of the Welsh Newspaper Proprietors' Association rather than lock out of those games of musical chairs that have destroyed many a free newspaper. In that instance I defended the NGA's right to work with me as a

Safeguarding the homebuyer

From Mr Graham Lee

Sir, In all the argument about the House Buyers Bill one fact is, perhaps, being lost sight of. This is that essentially the whole business of who does conveyancing is about consumer protection.

Whatever the rights or wrongs of the so-called "monopoly" of solicitors in conveyancing matters, the Austin Mitchell Bill is an appalling piece of drafting which, by any objective standard, will substantially and seriously reduce the protection of the consumer - the homebuyer.

What the buyer requires is the certainty that the home he is buying will belong to him, with no problems; he is not buying an insurance policy, which is all the Bill provides for.

A recent survey undertaken by MORI (whose Bob Worcester has been described by Austin Mitchell as the "best pollster in the business") for The Law Society reveals that 62 per cent of homebuyers consider the most important thing they want their solicitor to do is conduct the work thoroughly, whilst only 4 per cent think giving the cheap quote is most important.

This, together with the fact, already reported by you, that 87 per cent of recent homebuyers are satisfied with their solicitor's service, demonstrates that Austin Mitchell has got it quite wrong.

A licensed conveyancer under this Bill, which provides for no qualification, training, or test of competence at all, is hardly likely to be able to produce the thorough job the homebuyer wants.

House buyers beware! Yours faithfully, GRAHAM LEE, Secretary, Professional Development Department, The Law Society, 113 Chancery Lane, WC2, December 6.

From Mr Paul Randall

Sir, Ms Jane Bradley suggests (December 6) that the public would be protected from negligent licensed conveyancers by the virtue of their being insured on an indemnity basis, but that such insurance would only be obtained on proof of "sound practical experience". If the experience is a prerequisite of the insurance, how is it to be gained?

The title of "solicitor" is not easily come by and the cost to practitioners of their indemnity policy is far from inconsiderable. Yours faithfully, PAUL RANDALL, 31 Avon Road, Sunbury-on-Thames, Middlesex, December 6.

The Severn barrier

From Mr C. K. Haswell

Sir, The letters of Mr Richard Cottrell (November 19) and Dr Geoffrey Kellaway (November 25) relating to the crossing of the Severn estuary merit correction in the context of the two existing driven tunnel links.

The first, constructed between 1873 and 1886, was the original Severn tunnel, providing a rail link between England and Wales. It was a great feat of engineering, carried out in the foreknowledge that it was no easy task. Indeed, it remains arguably Britain's most celebrated tunnel, only second to Brunel's famous first crossing beneath the Thames. Today technical advance has made the means of tunnelling more sophisticated.

The second Severn tunnel, which crosses below the present bridge, is the CEBG power-cable link. My firm acted as the consulting engineers responsible for the project and I can assure Dr Kellaway that one of the most comprehensive geotechnical investigations of its kind took place.

An extract from my paper, read to the Institution of Civil Engineers in 1973, stated: "In that the tunnelling works were considered to be a difficult task from the inception of the project it is considered that, in the context of the exploratory data, the correct decision on choice of parameters was taken. Further, it is considered the methods of attack (construction) employed resulted in completion of the tunnel successfully without undue regard to the important aspect of safety."

To say, as does Mr Cottrell, that "The history of true tunnelling in the Severn grounds is not a happy one" is untenable. Further, to place the problems encountered in the construction of the CEBG tunnel in the same category as those met in the earlier tunnel is totally incorrect.

A third Severn tunnel is perfectly feasible. Yours faithfully, C. K. HASWELL, Charles Haswell and Partners, Consulting Engineers, 99 Great Russell Street, WC1, November 28.

Credit where it's due

From the Secretary of the Association of Consulting Engineers

Sir, Your front page report (November 25) about UK export performance is as cogent as ever. But is it not time that you altered your conventional examples for "invisibles"?

British consulting engineers have recently been credited with invisible earnings at the rate of some £365m per year, an average of £47m per month. That the UK had a net invisible surplus of £160m in October must be due in considerable part to the contribution of consulting engineers.

Do we not deserve an occasional mention?

Yours faithfully, P. J. M. PELLEREAU, Secretary, The Association of Consulting Engineers, Alliance House, 12 Caxton Street, SW1, November 28.

US policy in Central America

From the US Representative to the Organization of American States

Sir, I would like to respond to a letter that appeared in your paper on November 30 concerning the "growing threat in Central America". Central America is troubled. My Government welcomes positive European engagement in the search for solutions to the region's problems. We would welcome as well an effort by Europeans to understand what we are trying to do and why.

First, we are providing a great deal more economic than security assistance to the region and we have offered the nations of Central America and the Caribbean guaranteed duty-free access to our market through the President's Caribbean basin initiative.

Second, we are encouraging all of the nations in the region to broaden democracy and respect for human rights which must be the keystones to social and regional peace. We have made clear that we are troubled by the Sandinista government in El Salvador. Nonetheless, in the midst of turmoil, El Salvador held an election in 1982 where 80 per cent of the population voted despite threats from the guerrillas with "Vote today, die tonight". Now El Salvador has fixed a date for presidential elections in March, 1984.

Third, we seek an environment in which the nations of the area can engage in reforms without the fear that outsiders will take advantage to promote subversion and violence. Protection is needed and we are helping to provide a shield for these vulnerable societies.

Finally, we support wholeheartedly the Contadora peace process, which offers the best hope for a regional solution.

As to Nicaragua's role in the region, it should be recalled that in July of 1979 the OAS cooperated with a broad segment of Nicaraguan

groups to ease the replacement of the Somoza regime. This was an unprecedented step by the OAS and, as part of the process, the Sandinista commandantes formally pledged that they would take measures leading to political democracy, economic freedom, and international non-alignment.

The United States welcomed these promises and consistently sought to work with the leaders of Nicaragua, by providing economic assistance and through negotiation.

Yet, instead of good faith negotiations, instead of a verified termination of the export of subversion, instead of fair political competition through elections open to all groups, Nicaragua is characterized today by swollen military forces, pressure on those who do not support enthusiastically the regime, controls on trade union activities, persecution of the minority Miskito Indian population, censorship of the press, closing of radio stations, disregard for religious freedom, continuing support for guerrilla subversion in neighboring countries, and the presence of some 11,000 security and other personnel from Cuba and the Soviet block.

Despite all of these negative developments and the unwise efforts to subvert the Sandinista government, the United States is working with the Contadora nations to help convert broad agreement on principle into reality.

Sincerely, J. W. MIDDENDORF, US Representative to the Organization of American States, As from Department of State, Washington, DC, USA, December 1.

Prosecution by stores

From Ms Vivien Stern

Sir, Baroness Phillips suggests (November 24) that the Recorder's comments in the recent case where a 77-year-old woman was prosecuted for shoplifting have encouraged the notion that stores like Woolworth's do not deserve the protection of the law against theft of their goods.

This is simply nonsense. Stores, like anyone else, have the right to legal protection against theft; but shoplifting cases rise from those involving organized gangs of shoplifters to cases of muddled shoppers, often elderly, who remove goods without a clear intention to steal.

If those in the latter category are to be spared the stigma of a prosecution and court appearance for a crime they have not committed an attempt must be made to distinguish them from deliberate shoplifters.

Even where the theft is deliberate in some cases a police caution, official or informal - may be all that

is needed, particularly where the offender is of previous good character and a store's layout designed to encourage impulse buying has encouraged impulse shoplifting.

It is absurd to suggest that the best interests of criminal justice are served by prosecuting all alleged shoplifters regardless of age, physical or mental condition, and the existence of a real possibility that a mistake has been made; and stores should not expect the public purse to pay the cost of such prosecutions.

A requirement that they pay costs and perhaps damages when such cases are lost, combined with trenchant public comments of the kind made by the Recorder in this case, might lead to their adopting more reasonable and sensitive policies.

Yours faithfully, VIVIEN STERN, Director, National Association for the Care and Resettlement of Offenders, 169 Clapham Road, SW9, November 28.

Fatal statistics

From Dr Trevor Smith

Sir, In stating in your editorial today (November 25) that smoking kills 40 times as many men as road accidents you greatly underestimate the significance of road accidents as a cause of premature death.

If all of the people killed or seriously injured on British roads during the 1970s were laid end to end they would stretch from London to Edinburgh and back again. In addition, for every serious injury there were three or four minor injuries.

In 1981, 5,840 people were killed, over 77,000 seriously injured, while 236,000 received minor injuries.

Horrible as these figures are they still fail to reveal the true impact of road accidents as a cause of death. To appreciate this fully we must consider not simply the number of people killed, but the age at which they die. If we assume a life expectancy of 75 years and compare the number of years of life expectancy lost from the various causes then a more realistic picture emerges.

Thus in a single year, lung cancer claimed 38,300 lives, five times as many as the 6,831 lost in road accidents. It would appear at first sight therefore that lung cancer is by far the greater problem, but in terms of loss of life expectancy there is not a great deal to choose between the two - lung cancer deprived the population of 312,000 years of life expectancy, road accidents 255,000 years.

In Britain road accidents are by far the major killer of those under 35. In 1980, 3,280 people under the age of 35 died as a result of road accidents, while cancer of all kinds claimed 2,507 lives and diseases of

the heart and circulatory system 1,299 lives.

Smoking is certainly the major cause of premature death in Britain today, but road accidents come a very close second.

Yours sincerely, TREVOR SMITH, 97 Grieve Street, Dunfermline, November 25.

Nuclear metaphor

From the Right Reverend Trevor Huddleston, CR

Sir, The Minister of Defence is quoted today (feature, December 2) as saying "... the seamless robe of deterrence exists." Whatever the force of Mr Heseltine's argument for the use of nuclear weapons in the name of peace, he might at least respect the susceptibilities of Christians in his use of metaphor. For us there is only one "seamless robe" of significance. It was that one taken from the crucified Christ by the soldiers with the words, "Let us not tear it but cast lots for it to see whose it shall be".

It is hard to think of a more blasphemous comparison than that between the seamless robe of Christ at the moment of his supreme self-giving for the salvation of mankind and the horror of cruise and Pershing and all the other weapons of our day.

If the minister desires an appropriate metaphor I suggest he uses the phrase from St Mark's gospel: "The abomination of desolation standing where it ought not."

Yours faithfully, TREVOR HUDDLESTON, House of the Resurrection, Miffield, West Yorkshire.

Way of the Cross

From the Reverend G. Thompson Brake

Sir, It seems to suit some churchmen to resurrect the dichotomy between "personal" and "public" Christianity. In particular there is a disposition to associate "individual" or "personal" faith with a Tory philosophy of individual enterprise and achievement and then conclude that only a radical social religion has true validity.

One result of this is the adoption of political socialism and the attachment of "radical" insights of the faith to give it a quasi-theological content. Thus the dichotomy is perpetuated, not by those whose emphasis is on personal faith, but by those who are left-handed.

The Methodist Church, in which I am a minister, is widely acknowledged for its concern with social issues. Its founder, John Wesley, said: "Christianity is essentially a social religion and to turn it into a solitary one is to destroy it." That's a useful text for the critics of your leading article to latch on to.

However, John Wesley's social

Hope for young unemployed

From Mr Ray Hurst

Sir, Although Francis Pym (feature, December 1) is justified in referring to the "economically wasteful" and "humanly damaging" effects of unemployment, it is the "socially divisive" aspects of the problem which he emphasises which must be of the greatest concern.

Unemployed young people in particular, especially those experiencing long-term unemployment, react to their despairing situation by becoming apathetic and complacent and allowing themselves to drift into a sense of total hopelessness. This is not generally reflected by spontaneous and aggressive anti-social behaviour on the streets (although it is important not to ignore the rise in the number of burglaries and the relatively large number of those aged under 24 among those whose crime is detected).

Although the new Youth Training Scheme has been generally welcomed and supported by those involved in assisting unemployed young people, the fact should not be ignored that there are currently over 400,000 unemployed teenagers aged 18/19 years who are not eligible for entry to the scheme. Also, the published unemployment statistics do not divulge the total number of those waiting to enter their first real job. If those in Government special schemes are included, the numbers currently in this category must be about 750,000, at least.

Society still attaches a stigma to long-term unemployment. In the eyes of too many employers the longer a person is unemployed the more unemployable they become. The Government must make strenuous efforts to provide more paid employment for those young people still waiting for their first opportunity of employment.

The recent reluctant decision of the Manpower Services Commission, because of financial constraints, to curtail recruitment to the Community Programme, a much-needed scheme for the long-term unemployed, is to be deplored. The allocation of more resources to schemes of this kind should not be based solely on grounds of compassion but because it would be investment in sound common sense, considering the alternatives.

Yours faithfully, RAY HURST, Honorary Secretary, The Institute of Careers Officers, Careers Office, Fry Street, Middlesbrough, Cleveland, December 6.

From Mr I. J. Woolf

Sir, In America they talk about "getting back to work". In Britain we talk about "creating jobs".

Is there a moral in here somewhere? Yours sincerely, I. J. WOOLF, Special Forces Club, 8 Herbert Crescent, SW1, December 6.

Restriction on parole

From Sir David Davenport-Handley

Sir, As an admirer of the work of Dr Julian Candy I was sad to see that he had found it necessary to resign from the Parole Board, of which I am a member.

He says in his letter to you of November 22 that his views are shared "in whole or in part by very many of his colleagues". I am not one of them. I strongly believe that the Home Secretary of the day had the right to change the parole restrictions. He is exercising a statutory discretion and if it is a political decision that is also his right, and indeed duty, reflecting as it does the clear mandate received in June to provide greater protection for the public.

Of course, one would expect all cases to be referred to the board, as in the past and not as suggested by Lord Hunt in his letter (November 30) only those selected by the Home Office.

Yours faithfully, DAVID DAVENPORT-HANDLEY, Clapham Hall, Oakham, Rutland.

Winged chariot

From Dr W. I. Pumphrey

Sir, I would like to thank your many correspondents for their replies to my letter (November 12) minimum time intervals and for their wide-ranging observation of areas where there may be intervals even smaller than I had envisaged.

I was especially interested in the negative time concept proposed by Mr Christopher Fagg (November 17) since the possible existence of such time intervals had escaped my notice. He is entirely correct of course. They do exist and I now realize that he has formalized a saying of my mother that "someone had picked her up before she had fallen down", although she was referring not to buses moving slightly faster than the speed of thought but to our local grocer, who invariably wrote to her about the state of her account when she was still debating the size of her next order.

It seems to me entirely appropriate to call the basic unit of time a "Hume", as proposed by Mr Alpin (November 21) since it is clear that a "Hume" can be negative as well as positive. I only wish I had had a "Hume" by me in my university days, when I invariably had to echo the words of Hobart Brown, "Backward, turn backward, O time in your flight and tell me just one thing I studied last night". Yours faithfully, W. I. PUMPHREY, 28 Fitzwilliam House, The Little Green, Richmond, Surrey, December 1.

THE ARTS

Ballet

Not trying too hard

London
Contemporary
Sadler's Wells

Royal Ballet
Covent Garden

Mark Henderson's lighting is the element that most attracts attention to itself during *Conso Trobar* and stays most vividly in the mind afterwards. With its soft glow picking out the bodies (or sometimes only the faces) of the dancers, its patches of shadow, its continual shifting and changing, it is a typical London Contemporary Dance Theatre lighting plot.

Somewhere among all that discreet shifting light there is a ballet trying to get out - but not trying very hard. It has music described puzzlingly as "based on arrangements by Martin Best and realized by Barrington Pheloung". Six players each use from two to four different instruments, including such historic rarities as sackers, rebe, fide, rita and oud.

It is meant, music and

choreography alike, as a modern celebration of the music and ideas of twelfth century troubadours; and the emphasis in that phrase has to be on contemporary, because the poems are interpreted through modern eyes, with little or no sense of their historical context. Fair enough, but it does give a general impression of William Morris wallpapers.

Except for a moody duet for Anca Frankenhauser and Patrick Harding-Irmer, the one concession to courtly love, Christopher Bannerman's choreography is notable most for its energy and jollity. A duet for Anita Griffin and Michael Small, in which he repeatedly bounces over her, and ends up leap-frogging several dancers at once, is the most attractive invention in a work that has more liveliness than Bannerman's earlier productions.

Conso Trobar had its first London performance at Sadler's Wells on Tuesday night together with London Contemporary's first performance of *Carnival*, by Siobhan Davies to Saint-Saëns's music. Philippe Giraudeau has returned as guest to play the role he created last

year. His solo to "The Swan" is as remarkable as any (when Peter Mumford's lighting will let you see it). The dancer becomes both bird and cellist, while maintaining a fascination flow of musically phrased movement.

Giraudeau's Cuckoo, too, is still painfully sad. In this revival Giraudeau is way ahead of everyone else, except momentarily Laurence Potter, who replaced Linda Gibbs unannounced.

At Covent Garden on Monday, David Wall danced *Apollo* for the first time. Both in looks and in technique, he would have been better-suited to the waking young god earlier in his career, but he is a fine enough artist to overcome that, if only somebody can teach him the phrasing and emphasis to make the dances mean something.

Raymonde, too, has mostly failed to come to life, despite the various cast changes, except for one performance that paired Antoinette Sibley and Rudolf Nureyev. Both of them have danced with more bravura in the past, but they know what the style is supposed to be.

John Percival



Nigel Douglas in *From the House of the Dead*

Opera

Restored to splendour

From the House of the Dead
Dominion

Back for a week in the huge but serviceable barn of the Dominion Theatre, Welsh National Opera provide in their opening production an experience of such chilling power, of such music and dramatic cogency, that one wonders what on earth London's opera companies are up to with their French Fripperies and star vehicles when there are still Janacek operas which are not in their repertoire.

From the *House of the Dead*, Janacek's own adaptation of Dostoevsky, was left not quite complete when he died: his pupils finished it but also sentimentalized it. It has taken time to restore it to its intended splendour.

And splendid it most strangely is, in spite of its acutely depressing setting and story, for Janacek's genius was to point beyond the confines of the unutterably dreary prison camp (in Maria Bjornson's grey, rambling setting, a broken-

down structure, hastily strapped together with barbed wire, like an abandoned archaeological dig, to the glimmer of freedom beyond).

Freedom, as the relentless tread of the prisoners passed the closing bars of David Pountney's production emphasizes, is hard to see in this hopeless place.

But there is still the possibility of story-telling, of myth, and it is these episodes with which Janacek gives rhythm and meaning to the piece.

In these stories, which become the focus of the non-action (the real event, Luka's death, is a side event during a story), the WNO singers are superb. Donald Maxwell, towering over the final act as Shishkov, with Ralph Mason's wily Chervin at his side - the glimpses of innocence in his story are painful because so remote; Nigel Douglas's sharply projected Shapkin, hysterical with laughter at the remembrance of his ears nearly pulled off; Graham Clark's manic, demented Skuratov, incisively

As Luka Kuzmich, John

Mitchinson lumbers over the stage with authority; Robert Carpenter Turner as the noble Petrovich is more reserved; we only glimpse his brutal treatment in the bowels of this microcosm of hell.

Alongside the stories are the Easter Day plays, crudely staged on the raised platform which serves Pountney for the assembly of the officers and (his one major gloss on the text) the quasi-Last Supper of the visitors.

Superbly lit by Chris Ellis, the set interludes flash their canyons of prison life at us, while some of Janacek's paradoxically most colourful orchestral inspirations flash past, too.

High, whining clarinets after Luka's death; passing visions of tenderness in the strings; the biting wrong-note Strauss waltz; the level of inspiration here is overwhelming and is fully realized under Richard Armstrong's direction. An evening of major importance - and, alone of the operas on this tour, it will be repeated, on Friday.

Nicholas Kenyon

Television

Misty intimacy

Those who send out stage classics through the small screen bear a big responsibility: they have it in their power either to lure new audiences into the theatre, or to drive them even further away. Having administered a massive dose of aversion therapy with *The Oresteia*, Channel 4 have now redeemed themselves with a splendid commercial for Bizz, Peter Brook and the Bonifas du Nord.

In the stage version of *The Tragedy of Carmen* the audience sit with their feet in the sand of the arena while the 15-piece orchestra play discreetly in the background; four singers, two actors, no chorus. In the film version, with the assistance of Ingmar Bergman's regular director of photography, the events take place in an atmosphere of misty intimacy. We sense rather than see the bull ring, the bar room, the bandits' lair, while the protagonists fight and make love in close-up.

From the opening shot of a kneeling hooded figure in the middle of a symbolic waste, everything conspires to reinforce a sense of smouldering inevitability. The original plot has been both pared down and turned inside-out, with some macabre embellishments; the sinewy new score has been given an extra whiff of danger.

with typewritten for the *habanera*; the final scene, with the lovers kneeling side by side to face their fate and the fatal blow seeming to descend from behind them both, suggests divine retribution rather than mere human jealousy.

This *Carmen*, played by Hélène Delavault, is like a serpent with her prey, dominating her handsome lovers with the sheer force of her imperious sensuality. How will the other two *Carmens* compare? The rest of this trilogy should be fascinating. Incidentally, I cannot remember a more successful solution to the age-old problem of operatic dubbing in close-up. Beautiful sounds mean strained faces; strained faces look ridiculous; faces going silently through the motions undermine the soundtrack; here, for once, belief could comfortably be suspended.

Q.E.D. (BBC 1) went to China to see how the local NHS works. First surprise: unless you are a government worker it is not free. Hospital care costs a lot so the extra cash which the increasingly profit-conscious peasants are now amassing can be absolutely vital. Remember all those propaganda films of patients undergoing major surgery with acupuncture anaesthesia? Q.E.D. suggested that such patients often suffer appalling pain. "It is better to walk on two legs than one" opined the ineffable Chairman, so western and oriental medicine are generally applied in tandem.

We witnessed a counselling session for a newly wed couple. They were reminded of the ruler-lady official pulled out a pill and showed it to the wife, and then she waved a sheath at the husband. "Before you use it take it out and blow it up. If it has a hole, don't use it." After conferring shyly for a moment, the couple decided on the pill.

Michael Church

Interview

Stories of survival



Norman Lewis at home: "Endless pictures come through my mind"

Norman Lewis is doing well by the publishing boom in travel books: today *Golden Earth*, his account of a journey to Burma in 1950 (which prompted Cyril Connolly to say: "Mr Lewis can make even a lorry interesting") is being released.

The fresh interest in past journeys has inspired him to look back through old notebooks full of "cynical scribbles indecipherable to anyone but me". Two days before I went to see him, he had put the finishing touches to a book about the three seasons he spent as a fisherman in Spain immediately after the war. His agent and his publisher say that it is the best thing he has written. "At the time, the experiences struck me as nothing," he says. "But when I look now at what I wrote, then I see it is full of incredible things. It was still the Spain of Lorca. In the winter, villagers hibernated."

Travel writing is only one fragment, albeit the most enjoyable one, of Lewis's life. He is in the enviable position of being as much at home in fiction as in travelling and recording, with precise detail and a gentle, self-mocking humour, what he sees. Eleven of his 16 books are novels. "I like to exercise that part of my intellectual muscle acquired as a solitary only child, whose only means of survival was telling myself stories. Endless picaresque stories rush through my mind. I like to give them a whirl." Like his traveller's tales, their settings are exotic.

Lewis is a tall, angular man with a small moustache, round glasses and an exceedingly wary expression. His father was a chemist in Enfield, but he was brought up in Wales "by three insane aunts" after his grandfather had demanded that he be "Welshified". "At the time, I thought it perfectly normal that everyone was brought up by three insane aunts."

After school he made up medicine for his father and

needed decrepit motorcycles on dirt tracks, spending his evenings going in for literary competitions in *Tribute*, which he never won. Before long, he took off for South Arabia, taking a dhow down the Red Sea, and in the process learning Arabic with an ease he had never managed to bring to Welsh.

Towards the end of the 1930s Lewis found himself in Cuba. By now he was married, to a Sicilian girl fluent in five languages, from whom he picked up good Spanish and Italian, so that when war broke out someone suggested to him that he volunteer for the Intelligence Corps. (He was never to live with his wife again, but her Sicilian associations were later to provide him with material and impetus for two successful books on the Italian mafia, though he speaks of them extremely cautiously.)

"After the Salerno landings I was posted to Naples. We had to cope with a city of a million people devastated by warfare. It was a concentrated and kaleidoscopic experience. I must have covered hundreds of notebooks." Why these did not seem to him at the time the subject matter for a book was, Lewis explains, that he had no belief "in any future existence. I thought the war would go on for ever."

When it did end, and Lewis had regained a sense of confidence and the ability to contemplate regular hours through his Spanish fishing, he turned his eye towards India and set off for an almost unbroken decade of travelling, returning to England between journeys to write books that instantly became bestsellers. Meanwhile he had remarried, and had two more children. It was visiting his son by his Sicilian wife, now in Guatemala, that sparked off a change of direction towards Latin America.

What was he looking for in his travels? People? "Probably, I don't know. I became very

fascinated with the Indians, but I have never analysed why. When I arrive among them I feel a sense of enormous excitement, like catching a good sea trout. They are very different from us. They have many characteristics I admire: they are non-materialist, wild about animals, very generous and sharing, with a total absence of status."

Survival International, the humane rights group dealing with tribal people, was born as a direct result of a journey Lewis made to Brazil in 1968 for *The Sunday Times* to write about the massacre of the Brazilian Indians. "I like mountains and jungles, easy jungles with paths," he said. They're great. Birds, vegetation, butterflies. Lewis speaks in short sentences, disconcertingly falling silent in what seem sometimes to be the middle.

From his travels he returns with strange plants which he introduces gingerly into his garden, having taken care to learn their requirements. He has also surrounded his Essex house with nesting boxes and the sort of vegetation most attractive to butterflies. He cooks - the dishes he has eaten in the Far East, watches over his garden and works. "My regret is that I've stopped reading. It's like some terminal disease. As a boy I regarded any day in which I did not finish a book as a wasted one. Now I can just manage a bit of Herodotus."

Lewis is trying out an autobiography. He speaks of it with a sort of glee. "It is so made up of essays on some seven or eight areas of my life. My childhood - can you imagine being the son of a spiritualist medium? And all those insane aunts? Then I'm going to have a go at marriage. But I worry about that. Then there's fame. That's my meeting with Hemingway in Cuba, just after he had won the Nobel Prize. Saddest man I ever met. Said, 'Then there's war: what a choice I've got there.'"

Caroline Moorehead

Dear Girl
Old Red Lion

This Women's Theatre Group production has been assembled from the private writings of four London friends. Ruth Slate and her companions Françoise, Minna and Eva, have no claim on history beyond the fact that, for a quarter of a century, they kept up a correspondence and personal diaries which illuminate the growth of the women's movement outside the world of spotlight oratory and public gesture.

At any other period they would probably not have made friends at all. Ruth did a humdrum job and kept house for her battling parents. Eva had been the servant in a great house. Françoise and Minna were married ladies of totally different temperaments.

But they came together from a shared sense of frustration and injustice, and the hunger to

make something worthwhile of their lives. Ruth speaks for them all when she writes "I must find my centre before I experiment".

Finding the centre involved sloughing off their sexual and religious indoctrination, and learning to look at the surrounding world as a man-made artefact. Two of them make the orthodox escape from domestic service by learning to wield a typewriter. Françoise makes a stab at independence through freelance journalism.

They attend meetings, they go on Salvation Army marches, they pour out their political opinions and sexual confessions in their letters. The moving quality of the relationship is that it shows them struggling into another form of consciousness while still enmeshed by their old ties of duty and affection. The First World War emerges as the crucial event in their lives; all pacifists, they are immediately isolated from Britain's jingoistic patriarchy.

Concerts

LSO/Abbado
Barbican Hall

One goes dreary years without ever hearing a note of Webern in the concert hall, now all of a sudden, to mark his centenary, the whole output is being played in just over a week at the Barbican. On Tuesday night the first concert in this Olivetti Festival was encouragingly attended and hugely successful. It was unfortunate only that little of the success was Webern's.

Possibly because orchestras so rarely have the opportunity to play his music, and certainly because they have insufficient time to rehearse it properly, performances tend to perpetuate the notion of Webern as some impractical, abstract mathematician of sound, when in fact he was in search of a music as fresh and lovely as the mountain flowers he cherished. Here it was again that the London Symphony Orchestra under Claudio Abbado gave us performances of his *Variations* and his *Musical Offering* arrangement that were waiting for a corporate rhythm, a feeling of lines being drawn in zigzags of colour across the ensemble.

However, I am in no mood to carp about the outstanding accounts of Mahler's first symphony and, even more so, Berg's three pieces that followed the Webern. The temptation is

rather to see it as Webern's final act that he withdrew so much from the tumults where Berg and Mahler thrived, and where Mr Abbado and his players had them thriving on Tuesday.

The Berg performance was almost a miracle, and at last here was a work that benefited from the spotlighting of the Barbican's acoustics. At the most crowded passage, every strand was clear, but that would have been pointless, as it was in the Webern, without the orchestra's wholesale reconstruction of Berg's excess. The middle movement, a waltz of loose criticism as sedate as it is seductive, was full of the most gorgeous melody, and the final march sustained its crescendo of overbearing triumph right to the last bar, where trumpets and high woodwind about Berg's musical initial only to have it stifled.

There can be no single moment in music more violently autobiographical: Mahler is a model of taste and good order in comparison.

Paul Griffiths

LPO/Rostropovich
Festival Hall

Mstislav Rostropovich's concert with the London Philharmonic Orchestra was undoubtedly exciting to watch. His levish balletic exuberance saw to that. But it is not enough, of

course, for a conductor merely to demonstrate involvement with the music, and though the orchestra's playing, occasionally matched its master's feverish passions, the sounds it made were much more often simply ragged.

It probably did not help that most of the music was on the dark side. Prokofiev's Sixth Symphony, a work too seldom heard, broods on the tragedy of the last war for much of its course. After the agonizingly intense middle movement the finale promises briefly to lighten the atmosphere. But even here under the brilliant surface, simmers and immense sorrow. It is too overpowering when for a Shostakovich-like array to intrude. One wished only that this performance could have adequately reflected these depths.

Previously we heard a rather dour reading of Ravel's orchestration of Mussorgsky's *Pictures at an Exhibition*. There were some notable solos, from Paul Lawrence (trumpet), Stephen Trier (saxophone) and especially Lawrence Evans (trumpet); it was good to hear the trumpet played with such accuracy and subtlety, too. But the more jovial pictures sounded laboured, while "The Old Castle" lacked any sense of mystery and the majesty of "The Great Gate of Kiev" was but a hollow ceremony.

Stephen Pettitt

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Pop

Trapped in idolatry

Duran Duran
Manchester Apollo

If 1983 has marked the return of the teen idols, Duran Duran can take a dubious pride in having retained their scream-appeal title. The opening night of this tour confirmed their status as brand leaders in the pubescent and very noisy small girl market. But having aspired to this lofty height Duran Duran seem remarkably unaware of what to do with the power.

While their last album *Seven And The Ragged Tiger* found the band attempting to mature, assimilating a degree of *Let's Dance*-styled Bowie into their own repertoire, this live show was simply more of pop's

lowest common denominator. Granting the commercial aspects of Duran's success, the glossy good looks and obvious hooks, one would have expected them to attempt an entertainment that differed from the stock rock clichés. Far from it. Despite the modern connotations of their sound and the post-New Romantic imagery, Duran are quite happy wallowing in the old-fashioned routines.

Singer Simon Le Bon is a curiously clumsy performer for someone at this level and while the band are competent enough at striking the right pose they lack the charisma necessary to sustain any excitement. They offered dutiful deliveries of the hits "Rio", "Is There Some-

thing I Should Know?" and "Planet Earth" but the constant hysteria of the audience did them no favours. The sound was homogenized and bland.

To their credit Duran are smart enough not to patronize the crowd in the way Wham! do; they do not prey on fry sexuality. Similarly, their commitment to pleasing the fans is genuine. They would argue that you cannot eat artistic integrity. What rankles finally is the perfunctory acceptance of what they do as an end in itself. I suspect Duran Duran would like to be taken seriously. Unfortunately the idolatry is nothing more than a comfortable trap.

Max Bell

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PARCELS
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20th DEC
16⁰⁰ POST

Royal Mail

MARKET REPORT by Michael Clark

Hawker shares take off

ACCOUNT DAY: Dealings began, Nov 28. Dealings end, Dec 9. Contango Day, Dec 12. Settlement Day, Dec 16.

Shares of Hawker Siddeley staged their own vertical take-off yesterday climbing 16p to 362p as one broker prepared to make a major upgrading on the company's prospects.

The broker, W Greenwall, hopes to complete a study of the company shortly, and is confident that investors will be in a winning position. Britain's healthier climate bodes well for Hawker. Growing export markets and a heavy investment programme in North America should soon be filtering through to profits.

Market analysts are looking for pretax profits of between £120m and £125m for the year against £116.2m last time. However, some brokers are looking for a figure of nearer £130m and this is certain to start another round of upgrading among other market experts.

Meanwhile, the rest of the equity market continued to maintain its record breaking run, although this would not have been evident from the turnover level. The FT Index closed at its high for the day 5.4 up at 753.6, helped by a firm appearance on Wall Street and

renewed activity among blue chips.

On the gilt edged market, prices rose by up to 50p supported by Tuesday's better than expected bank lending figures. But on the foreign exchange sterling dropped to its lowest level ever, falling 55 points to \$1.4355.

It looks as though the worst may be over at Steelco, currently the subject of a bid from Hawker Ceramic. Yesterday the shares rose 6p to 218p as broker Springmeyer Kemp Gee continued to recommend the shares, a cut in the dividend last year.

At the halfway stage this year Steelco produced profits of £10.5m and Springmeyer is looking for a similar performance in the second.

Dealers have become increasingly confident of the economic outlook and this may be the reason why the Government

broker has decided to release an extra £500m of existing stock. They are £500m of Exchequer 10 1/2 per cent 1995 and £200m of Exchequer 10 1/2 per cent 1994.

Among leaders, Bewater slipped 1p to 240p after scaling new heights on Monday on hopes that terms for the sale of its Cornhill Brook mill might be announced shortly.

The shares have been active of late, sliding to below the 190p level only to recover this account on bid hopes.

Blue Circle fell 8p to 428p and Rugby Portland 9p to 99p, after news that the Cement Makers Federation council meeting had decided against the expected 5 per cent rise in cement prices.

Rugby was reckoned to have been pressing for a big rise in prices, but Blue Circle, which has been more affected by imported cement than other producers, wanted to see the

price freeze extended and its view prevailed.

Great Universal Stores 'A' responded 9p to 605p ahead of figures later today, while the ordinary added 9p to 610p. Analysts are looking for pretax

profits of between £89m to £93m compared with £82.8m last year.

There has again been big support for shares of BTR, 13p dearer at 412p. American investors reckon the shares should soon reflect bumper profits after this year's acquisition of Thomas Tilling in one

of the biggest takeover battles ever seen on the London stock market.

Over on the Unlisted Securities Market, shares of Pericom made an encouraging start after a placing by the brokers Capel Cure Myers and Albert E. Sharpe. The shares were placed at 140p and closed at 152p. Pericom, a private company, has increased its stake in that old takeover favourite Highgate & Job. Earlier this week it bought a total of 137,000 shares amounting to 14.9 per cent of the equity. Shares of Highgate responded to the news with a 4p rise to 110p.

But Eastern Produce slipped 3p to 163p after Lawrie Group announced it had bought an extra 117,000 shares, taking its total holding to 1.79 million shares, or 17.12 per cent of the issue.

Dalgety spurred 12p to 398p after a buy recommendation from broker Phillips & Drew who is impressed by the 9 per cent yield. Another big broker is also recommending the shares and says they made a good start in the first quarter and should be capable of at least £224m in the first six months.

RECENT ISSUES

Company	Price	Yield
Agip Holdings 10p Ord (1154)	164.2	10.4
BP 25p Ord (1432)	164.2	10.4
British Airways 10p Ord (1234)	107	10.7
British Petroleum 10p Ord (1234)	107	10.7
British Telecom 10p Ord (1234)	107	10.7
British Waterways 10p Ord (1234)	107	10.7
British Airways 10p Ord (1234)	107	10.7
British Petroleum 10p Ord (1234)	107	10.7
British Telecom 10p Ord (1234)	107	10.7
British Waterways 10p Ord (1234)	107	10.7

BRITISH FUNDS

Company	Price	Yield
Agip Holdings 10p Ord (1154)	164.2	10.4
BP 25p Ord (1432)	164.2	10.4
British Airways 10p Ord (1234)	107	10.7
British Petroleum 10p Ord (1234)	107	10.7
British Telecom 10p Ord (1234)	107	10.7
British Waterways 10p Ord (1234)	107	10.7
British Airways 10p Ord (1234)	107	10.7
British Petroleum 10p Ord (1234)	107	10.7
British Telecom 10p Ord (1234)	107	10.7
British Waterways 10p Ord (1234)	107	10.7

MEDIUM

Company	Price	Yield
Agip Holdings 10p Ord (1154)	164.2	10.4
BP 25p Ord (1432)	164.2	10.4
British Airways 10p Ord (1234)	107	10.7
British Petroleum 10p Ord (1234)	107	10.7
British Telecom 10p Ord (1234)	107	10.7
British Waterways 10p Ord (1234)	107	10.7
British Airways 10p Ord (1234)	107	10.7
British Petroleum 10p Ord (1234)	107	10.7
British Telecom 10p Ord (1234)	107	10.7
British Waterways 10p Ord (1234)	107	10.7

LONG

Company	Price	Yield
Agip Holdings 10p Ord (1154)	164.2	10.4
BP 25p Ord (1432)	164.2	10.4
British Airways 10p Ord (1234)	107	10.7
British Petroleum 10p Ord (1234)	107	10.7
British Telecom 10p Ord (1234)	107	10.7
British Waterways 10p Ord (1234)	107	10.7
British Airways 10p Ord (1234)	107	10.7
British Petroleum 10p Ord (1234)	107	10.7
British Telecom 10p Ord (1234)	107	10.7
British Waterways 10p Ord (1234)	107	10.7

COMMONWEALTH AND FOREIGN

Company	Price	Yield
Agip Holdings 10p Ord (1154)	164.2	10.4
BP 25p Ord (1432)	164.2	10.4
British Airways 10p Ord (1234)	107	10.7
British Petroleum 10p Ord (1234)	107	10.7
British Telecom 10p Ord (1234)	107	10.7
British Waterways 10p Ord (1234)	107	10.7
British Airways 10p Ord (1234)	107	10.7
British Petroleum 10p Ord (1234)	107	10.7
British Telecom 10p Ord (1234)	107	10.7
British Waterways 10p Ord (1234)	107	10.7

LOCAL AUTHORITIES

Company	Price	Yield
Agip Holdings 10p Ord (1154)	164.2	10.4
BP 25p Ord (1432)	164.2	10.4
British Airways 10p Ord (1234)	107	10.7
British Petroleum 10p Ord (1234)	107	10.7
British Telecom 10p Ord (1234)	107	10.7
British Waterways 10p Ord (1234)	107	10.7
British Airways 10p Ord (1234)	107	10.7
British Petroleum 10p Ord (1234)	107	10.7
British Telecom 10p Ord (1234)	107	10.7
British Waterways 10p Ord (1234)	107	10.7

BANKS AND DISCOUNTS

Company	Price	Yield
Agip Holdings 10p Ord (1154)	164.2	10.4
BP 25p Ord (1432)	164.2	10.4
British Airways 10p Ord (1234)	107	10.7
British Petroleum 10p Ord (1234)	107	10.7
British Telecom 10p Ord (1234)	107	10.7
British Waterways 10p Ord (1234)	107	10.7
British Airways 10p Ord (1234)	107	10.7
British Petroleum 10p Ord (1234)	107	10.7
British Telecom 10p Ord (1234)	107	10.7
British Waterways 10p Ord (1234)	107	10.7

BREWERS AND DISTILLERS

Company	Price	Yield
Agip Holdings 10p Ord (1154)	164.2	10.4
BP 25p Ord (1432)	164.2	10.4
British Airways 10p Ord (1234)	107	10.7
British Petroleum 10p Ord (1234)	107	10.7
British Telecom 10p Ord (1234)	107	10.7
British Waterways 10p Ord (1234)	107	10.7
British Airways 10p Ord (1234)	107	10.7
British Petroleum 10p Ord (1234)	107	10.7
British Telecom 10p Ord (1234)	107	10.7
British Waterways 10p Ord (1234)	107	10.7

COMMERCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL

Company	Price	Yield
Agip Holdings 10p Ord (1154)	164.2	10.4
BP 25p Ord (1432)	164.2	10.4
British Airways 10p Ord (1234)	107	10.7
British Petroleum 10p Ord (1234)	107	10.7
British Telecom 10p Ord (1234)	107	10.7
British Waterways 10p Ord (1234)	107	10.7
British Airways 10p Ord (1234)	107	10.7
British Petroleum 10p Ord (1234)	107	10.7
British Telecom 10p Ord (1234)	107	10.7
British Waterways 10p Ord (1234)	107	10.7

STERLING: SPOT AND FORWARD

Company	Price	Yield
Agip Holdings 10p Ord (1154)	164.2	10.4
BP 25p Ord (1432)	164.2	10.4
British Airways 10p Ord (1234)	107	10.7
British Petroleum 10p Ord (1234)	107	10.7
British Telecom 10p Ord (1234)	107	10.7
British Waterways 10p Ord (1234)	107	10.7
British Airways 10p Ord (1234)	107	10.7
British Petroleum 10p Ord (1234)	107	10.7
British Telecom 10p Ord (1234)	107	10.7
British Waterways 10p Ord (1234)	107	10.7

MONEY MARKET

Company	Price	Yield
Agip Holdings 10p Ord (1154)	164.2	10.4
BP 25p Ord (1432)	164.2	10.4
British Airways 10p Ord (1234)	107	10.7
British Petroleum 10p Ord (1234)	107	10.7
British Telecom 10p Ord (1234)	107	10.7
British Waterways 10p Ord (1234)	107	10.7
British Airways 10p Ord (1234)	107	10.7
British Petroleum 10p Ord (1234)	107	10.7
British Telecom 10p Ord (1234)	107	10.7
British Waterways 10p Ord (1234)	107	10.7

OTHER MARKETS

Company	Price	Yield
Agip Holdings 10p Ord (1154)	164.2	10.4
BP 25p Ord (1432)	164.2	10.4
British Airways 10p Ord (1234)	107	10.7
British Petroleum 10p Ord (1234)	107	10.7
British Telecom 10p Ord (1234)	107	10.7
British Waterways 10p Ord (1234)	107	10.7
British Airways 10p Ord (1234)	107	10.7
British Petroleum 10p Ord (1234)	107	10.7
British Telecom 10p Ord (1234)	107	10.7
British Waterways 10p Ord (1234)	107	10.7

DOLLAR SPOT RATES

Company	Price	Yield
Agip Holdings 10p Ord (1154)	164.2	10.4
BP 25p Ord (1432)	164.2	10.4
British Airways 10p Ord (1234)	107	10.7
British Petroleum 10p Ord (1234)	107	10.7
British Telecom 10p Ord (1234)	107	10.7
British Waterways 10p Ord (1234)	107	10.7
British Airways 10p Ord (1234)	107	10.7
British Petroleum 10p Ord (1234)	107	10.7
British Telecom 10p Ord (1234)	107	10.7
British Waterways 10p Ord (1234)	107	10.7

EURO-DEPOSITS

Company	Price	Yield
Agip Holdings 10p Ord (1154)	164.2	10.4
BP 25p Ord (1432)	164.2	10.4
British Airways 10p Ord (1234)	107	10.7
British Petroleum 10p Ord (1234)	107	10.7
British Telecom 10p Ord (1234)	107	10.7
British Waterways 10p Ord (1234)	107	10.7
British Airways 10p Ord (1234)	107	10.7
British Petroleum 10p Ord (1234)	107	10.7
British Telecom 10p Ord (1234)	107	10.7
British Waterways 10p Ord (1234)	107	10.7

GOLD

Company	Price	Yield
Agip Holdings 10p Ord (1154)	164.2	10.4
BP 25p Ord (1432)	164.2	10.4
British Airways 10p Ord (1234)	107	10.7
British Petroleum 10p Ord (1234)	107	10.7
British Telecom 10p Ord (1234)	107	10.7
British Waterways 10p Ord (1234)	107	10.7
British Airways 10p Ord (1234)	107	10.7
British Petroleum 10p Ord (1234)	107	10.7
British Telecom 10p Ord (1234)	107	10.7
British Waterways 10p Ord (1234)	107	10.7

FINANCE HOUSE RATE

Company	Price	Yield
Agip Holdings 10p Ord (1154)	164.2	10.4
BP 25p Ord (1432)	164.2	10.4
British Airways 10p Ord (1234)	107	10.7
British Petroleum 10p Ord (1234)	107	10.7
British Telecom 10p Ord (1234)	107	10.7
British Waterways 10p Ord (1234)	107	10.7
British Airways 10p Ord (1234)	107	10.7
British Petroleum 10p Ord (1234)	107	10.7
British Telecom 10p Ord (1234)	107	10.7
British Waterways 10p Ord (1234)	107	10.7

FINANCIAL TRUSTS

Company	Price	Yield
Agip Holdings 10p Ord (1154)	164.2	10.4
BP 25p Ord (1432)	164.2	10.4
British Airways 10p Ord (1234)	107	10.7
British Petroleum 10p Ord (1234)	107	10.7
British Telecom 10p Ord (1234)	107	10.7
British Waterways 10p Ord (1234)	107	10.7
British Airways 10p Ord (1234)	107	10.7
British Petroleum 10p Ord (1234)	107	10.7
British Telecom 10p Ord (1234)	107	10.7
British Waterways 10p Ord (1234)	107	10.7

INSURANCE

Company	Price	Yield
Agip Holdings 10p Ord (1154)	164.2	10.4
BP 25p Ord (1432)	164.2	10.4
British Airways 10p Ord (1234)	107	10.7
British Petroleum 10p Ord (1234)	107	10.7
British Telecom 10p Ord (1234)	107	10.7
British Waterways 10p Ord (1234)	107	10.7
British Airways 10p Ord (1234)	107	10.7
British Petroleum 10p Ord (1234)	107	10.7
British Telecom 10p Ord (1234)	107	10.7
British Waterways 10p Ord (1234)	107	10.7

INVESTMENT TRUSTS

Company	Price	Yield
Agip Holdings 10p Ord (1154)	164.2	10.4
BP 25p Ord (1432)	164.2	10.4
British Airways 10p Ord (1234)	107	10.7
British Petroleum 10p Ord (1234)	107	10.7
British Telecom 10p Ord (1234)	107	10.7
British Waterways 10p Ord (1234)	107	10.7
British Airways 10p Ord (1234)	107	10.7
British Petroleum 10p Ord (1234)	107	10.7
British Telecom 10p Ord (1234)	107	10.7
British Waterways 10p Ord (1234)	107	10.7

PROPERTY

Company	Price	Yield
Agip Holdings 10p Ord (1154)	164.2	10.4
BP 25p Ord (1432)	164.2	10.4
British Airways 10p Ord (1234)	107	10.7
British Petroleum 10p Ord (1234)	107	10.7
British Telecom 10p Ord (1234)	107	10.7
British Waterways 10p Ord (1234)	107	10.7
British Airways 10p Ord (1234)	107	10.7
British Petroleum 10p Ord (1234)	107	10.7
British Telecom 10p Ord (1234)	107	10.7
British Waterways 10p Ord (1234)	107	10.7

PLANTATIONS

Company	Price	Yield
Agip Holdings 10p Ord (1154)	164.2	10.4
BP 25p Ord (1432)	164.2	10.4
British Airways 10p Ord (1234)	107	10.7
British Petroleum 10p Ord (1234)	107	10.7
British Telecom 10p Ord (1234)	107	10.7
British Waterways 10p Ord (1234)	107	10.7
British Airways 10p Ord (1234)	107	10.7
British Petroleum 10p Ord (1234)	107	10.7</

FINANCE AND INDUSTRY

Executive Editor Kenneth Fleet

Faster world growth and a diminishing debt problem

A perceptible glow of optimism that the world may be over the hump of the debt crisis, apparent since this autumn, has been growing brighter as signs of economic recovery have multiplied.

M. Jacques de Larosière, managing director of the International Monetary Fund, yesterday added his voice to the band of hope. He told a French foreign trade symposium that the IMF was now predicting 3.5 per cent growth in the industrial countries next year (compared with 3.25 per cent forecast in September), after 2 per cent this year. It was expected to be accompanied by a 4.5 per cent expansion of world trade.



Schmidt (left) and De Larosière: harsh words about US deficit

Each 1 per cent growth in the West over the next three years means \$35 billion (£24.2 billion) additional export earnings for the hard-pressed developing countries, equivalent to one-third of their total debt service payments for 1982, the IMF chief pointed out.

Third World nations have already made substantial efforts to help themselves. They have managed, in the midst of the most severe global recession since the war, to cut their aggregate balance of payments deficit to about \$67 billion this year from \$110 billion in 1981. Their debt service payments have come down from 23 per cent to 19 per cent.

A durable world recovery, tough adjustment programmes by debtor countries and the maintenance of credit flows to the developing world could lower the debt service ratio to 14 per cent over the next three years, M. de Larosière said.

Also striking an optimistic note, Herr Karl Otto Poehl, president of the German Central Bank, told reporters yesterday that the \$3 billion bridging loan from the industrial countries to help the IMF over its cash shortage (to be matched by a similar sum from Saudi Arabia) would be agreed when central bankers meet next week in Basel.

The encouraging picture painted by M. de Larosière, which follows the recent analysis of Third World debts by Professor William Cline, of the Washing-

ton-based Institute for International Economics, is a less certain prospect than he makes it seem. The growth of protectionist pressures and the huge American budget deficit, now seemingly cast in steel until after next year's presidential election, throws deep shadows on optimism.

According to the IMF managing director, who had some harsh things to say about the US deficit, interest rates in the seven largest economies were more than 5 per cent above inflation, when the difference should be no more than 2 per cent.

Herr Helmut Schmidt, former West German Chancellor, went further when he said yesterday that the US deficit was the world's biggest economic problem.

In remarks reminiscent of Mr Edward Heath's call a couple of years ago for a "ring-fence" of capital controls round Europe, Herr Schmidt said European countries might be forced to impose capital controls to stop outflows to the US. Almost as the words came out, the idea was being pooh-poohed by the president of the West German Central Bank.

Uncertainty over the future of oil prices knocked sterling in late trading yesterday. The pound fell sharply to its lowest level against the dollar, touching \$1.4330 at one stage in New York. It recovered to finish 75 points down in London at a record closing low of \$1.4420.

The drop followed news that the Nigerian senate had voted to pull out of the Organization of Oil Exporting Countries if its oil production quota was not raised in the talks being held in Geneva. This heightened worries that oil prices may not hold.

As a petrocurrency sterling is vulnerable to fears of lower prices.

The sudden fall in sterling was the more unexpected because it came after a buoyant afternoon performance in the wake of balance of payments figures showing a £1,200m surplus on current account in

the first three quarters of this year, twice the level estimated.

Three weeks ago the Treasury predicted a surplus for this year as a whole of just £500m, falling to zero next year after a surplus of £5,400m last year.

The revision is entirely accounted for by higher invisible earnings, including interest, profit and dividends remitted from overseas, and transfer payments helped by an improvement in the Government's balance with the EEC.

The balance of payments figures released yesterday by the Central Statistical Office also show that portfolio investment overseas totalled £5,050m in the first three quarters this year, up from £4,470m in the same period a year ago.

The pound's late weakness was amplified by more technical factors. Traders wanting to

buy marks decided to sell sterling rather than dollars, because the US currency is expected to remain strong.

The pound ended the day lower against all currencies though the final calculation of its effective index, made earlier by the Bank of England, showed a 0.1 improvement to 82.9.

The dollar made widespread though modest gains against most currencies, its trade-weighted index rising 0.3 to 129.6.

Though there is general agreement that the dollar is overvalued by as much as a fifth on fundamental economic grounds, in terms of relative inflation and competitiveness, no one dares predict when it will fall.

The booming economy, and high US interest rates under-

pinned by the huge federal budget deficit, coupled with international political tensions, continue to make the dollar an overwhelming attraction for short-term funds.

The pound's weakness against the dollar also rules out a cut in British interest rates. The situation gives Britain the worst of all worlds. Sterling's weakness against the dollar raises inflationary pressures, since many imported basic materials are priced in dollars.

But it remains at high levels against European currencies and the yen, which leaves British goods uncompetitive in their most important export markets.

The Government will therefore be reluctant to raise interest rates as this could push up sterling against these currencies, risking damage to the recovery.

Nigerians in vote to quit Opec

By David Young and Michael Frost

The Nigerian senate yesterday reported to have voted to leave the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries, as in Geneva, Opec ministers struggled to present a united front.

Saudi Arabia has argued at the Geneva meeting for pegging the price of its marker crude, the cornerstone of Opec's price structure, at \$29 a barrel until the end of next year. The price was cut from \$34 a barrel in March.

The motion to the Nigerian senate proposing that the count should withdraw from Opec was sponsored by Senator David Dafinno, a member of President Shugu Shagari's National Party. But the vote is not binding on the government.

The proposal was part of a wider motion which suggested five ways of surmounting Nigeria's economic crisis. Senator Dafinno argued that the country's Opec quota of 1.3 million barrels a day was not enough to produce the revenue needed to cover Nigeria's short-term debts. He advocated raising output to 2 million barrels a day.

But in Geneva, Mr Yabuya Dikko, the Nigerian oil minister, said he knew nothing about the senate's vote. Asked about the reports, he said: "Oh really? I didn't know that. Tell me more." The Nigerian delegation was present when ministers resumed their discussions last night.

As the negotiations were again joined, Shaikh Ahmed Zaki Yamani, the Saudi Arabian petroleum minister, insisted that oil prices would be frozen for at least another 12 months. He said: "I assure you, it will be like this because we will never in Saudi Arabia increase our price."

Shaikh Yamani went on: "Even if you have the majority in Opec to increase it, which is a hypothetical question, we are not going to increase our prices."

But other members are pressing for higher prices and bigger quotas. Mr Muhammad Ghannouchi, the Iranian oil minister, said yesterday morning that his government wanted a \$5 increase in the market price.

Iran and Iraq, who have been at war for three years, each argued that because of economic difficulties, it should be the first member to benefit from any increase in the demand for oil. The two Gulf producers, whose output has suffered from the fighting, accused Saudi Arabia of abusing its position as Opec's "swing" producer, by exceeding its quota.

NEDC agrees more joint job studies

By Jonathan Davis, Financial Correspondent

The Government, CBI and TUC have agreed to take part in further joint studies of Britain's employment prospects in what was being cautiously hailed last night as an encouraging step towards a new mood of tripartite conciliation on the economy.

The decision to press ahead with the joint studies was taken at yesterday's meeting of the National Economic Development Council where the Treasury produced its long-awaited paper on the prospects for new jobs.

The 30-page study, which was undertaken on the initiative by Mr Nigel Lawson, the Chancellor, earlier this summer, makes it clear that the Government is expecting more new jobs to come from the service industries, with little or no further growth in manufacturing industry jobs.

It says that these new jobs will only materialize if employers, employees and unions are prepared to become more flexible in their approach to work, with more frequent job changes, more flexible hours, more part-time work, and greater job mobility. It gives a warning that this process of structural change in the economy will not be "completely painless".

The TUC also submitted a paper to the council meeting warning that despite some increases in service jobs the "real" rate of unemployment could still rise to more than 5 million by the end of the 1980s.

The ensuing debate was described by all the participants as one of the most constructive and encouraging to have been held at the council since Mrs Thatcher came to power in 1979.

Mr Len Murray, general secretary of the TUC, welcomed the Treasury's paper as a serious response to a challenging issue, and said he hoped the further joint exercises would lead "to a common ground leading to real agreed action".

Mr Lawson, also said he was encouraged by the fact that joint work had been started on future employment patterns, which he said went "to the heart of our economic problems".

Hanson shares soar on record profit of £91m

By Our Financial Staff

Hanson Trust Year to 30.9.83
Profit £91.1m (80.4m)
Dividend 16.5p (12.7p)
Turnover £1,484m (£1,148m)
Net total dividend 50p (40p adjusted)
Share price 252p Yield 2.8%
One for two scrip proposed

Hanson Trust is on course for another set of record profits this year on the back of a substantial recovery in the US economy.

The good prospects follow record results for 1982-83 which surpassed market expectations and pushed the share price to a record 252p.

The industrial conglomerate, built up by Lord Hanson through acquisition and now including Ever Ready and the Alders (formerly UDS) retail business, increased profits from £60.4m to £91.1m.

The good results stemmed particularly from the improving performance of Hanson's UK and European companies like Ever Ready and Butterley, the brick maker, and a substantial fall in central costs.

The balance sheet is strong with a large cash element of £408m, helped by sales of UDS assets which totalled £160m and good cash generation from the rest of the business. Alders contributed £6.7m on sales of



Lord Hanson: on target for another record year

£144m in its five months with the conglomerate.

Mr Hector Santa, of Phillips & Drew, the stockbrokers, believes Hanson will make at least £125m and probably more for the current year but warns that the market is nervous about further British acquisitions.

The improvement will come from the US where the businesses had a strong finish to the year, from a further fall in costs and a much greater contribution from Alders.

Hanson has a 9.4 per cent stake in London Brick and market speculation has connected it with both Tate & Lyle and Boveri. However, with half its business in the US, it is likely to spend some of its cash mountain there.

RIT takes 7% stake in jobbers

By Philip Robinson

Mr Jacob Rothschild's RIT and Northern investment trust group yesterday announced it was buying 7.72 per cent of the stockbrokers Smith Brothers.

Independent share purchases by the New York company L F Rothschild Untermyer Towbin, of which RIT owns 50 per cent, had taken the stake above the 5 per cent level required to be declared under British company law.

Mr Tony Lewis, Smith's chairman, said last night: "RIT have had just under 5 per cent of us for some time. This announcement does not particularly surprise me. I don't think it's a threat of a takeover. It may be, I just don't know."

Smith's price has soared this year from 38p to last night's 53p, up 2p on the day. Behind the price surge was a belief that changes in the Stock Exchange rules on shareholding by outsiders would mean strategic stakes being taken in both Smith and Akroyd & Smith. London's other publicly quoted jobbers.

Last month, Mercury Securities quoted a 10 per cent stake of SG Warburg, the respected City merchant bank, paid £21m for 29.9 per cent stake in Akroyd.

Market traders believe that discussions are taking place between Smith and outsiders.

RIT's London and New York buying of Smith stock, giving it 1.002 million shares and breaching the 5 per cent level, is likely to have been an error.

RIT holds a 29.9 per cent stake of Kitcat & Altken, the London stockbrokers, and this month will consummate the substantial merger between itself and Charterhouse Group, the merchant bank.

It has emerged that on taking its Kitcat stake, RIT promised not to take more than 5 per cent of any other member firm without consulting the Exchange's ruling council. The council will begin today to decide if it thinks RIT ought to sell 2.5 per cent of Smith Brothers to return the holding to the 5 per cent level.

Index rise continues

The stock market continued to shrug off its worries about the pound yesterday as it again scaled new heights, with the FT index closing 5.4 up at 753.6.

Yesterday's better-than-expected bank lending figures also helped sentiment and the Bank of England took the opportunity to dip into the gilt market to help finance government expenditure.

Yesterday, it announced an additional £500m of stock - £300m of Exchequer, 10 1/4 per cent, 1995 and £200m of Exchequer, 10 1/4 per cent, 1994. Dealings are expected to start tomorrow.

STOCK EXCHANGES

FT Index 753.6 up 5.4
FT 100 63.33 up 0.33
FT All Shares 483.59 up 1.99
Bargains 20.048
Datastream USM Leaders Index 95.92 up 0.15
New York Dow Jones Industrial (latest) 1277.64 up 8.33
Tokyo Nikkei Dow Jones Index 9,404.99 down 33.80
Hong Kong Hang Seng Index 874.36 down 7.22
Amsterdam 156 down 0.4
Sydney AO Index 735.0 up 1.5
Frankfurt Commerzbank Index 1022.7 down 0.3
Brussels General Index 129.32 unchanged
Paris CAC Index 150.4 up 0.4
Zurich SKA General Index 384.10 down 0.20

CURRENCIES

LONDON CLOSE

Sterling \$1.4420 down 75pts
Index 82.9 up 0.1
DM 3.9425 down 0.0150
FF 11.9550 down 0.04
Yen 337.75 down 1.50
Dollar Index 129.6 up 0.3
DM 2.7325 up 0.0022
NEW YORK LATEST
Sterling \$1.4405
Dollar DM 2.7365

INTERNATIONAL

ECU £0.571554
SDR 20.723198

INTEREST RATES

Domestic rates
Bank base rates 9
Finance houses base rate 9 1/2
Discount market loans week 9
3 month interbank 9 1/4-9 1/2
Euro-currency rates
3 month dollar 9 1/4-1/2
3 month DM 8 1/4-1/2
3 month FF 13 1/4-1/2

US rates
Bank prime rate 11.00
Fed funds 9 1/4
Treasury long bond 10 1/4-1/2

ECOD Fixed Rate Sterling Export Finance Scheme IV
Average reference rate for interest period November 2 to December 3, 1983 inclusive: 8.850 per cent.

GOLD

London fixed (per ounce) am \$399.75 pm \$399.75
close \$399.50-400 (£277.25-277.75)
New York latest: \$398
Kruggerand (per cent): \$412-413.50 (\$288-287)
Sovereigns (new): \$34-35 (\$25-26)
*Excludes VAT

NEWS IN BRIEF

Synterials issue sets USM record

James Capel & Co, one of London's premier stockbrokers, yesterday began a £20m underwriting for a new issue of a high-technology company called Synterials. The broker intends offering 80 per cent of Synterials stock on the Unlisted Securities Market, the largest amount of a company's equity ever offered there.

Synterials is a unique operation which designs and manufactures new plastics for producing manufacturers in record time and at a substantially reduced cost.

It has no real trading background and high debts of £4.5m but has been backed by a consortium of bankers including Lazard, County Bank, Morgan Grenfell and Samuel Montagu. The group has already received tentative approaches from KLM and Fokker. Both are now attempting joint projects and have already attempted to snap up 5 per cent of the company.

● Safeway Food Stores has joined the growing list of supermarket chains reporting bumper profits. The company, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Safeway Stores Inc of the United States, reported pretax profits 41 per cent higher at £24.1m on a turnover up from £502m to £597m.

● Britain's invisible earnings, from industries which include insurance, shipping, tourism and the investment industry, jumped 8 per cent for the first nine months of this year, according to official figures yesterday. For the third quarter of this year these earnings from the private sector rose by £127m to £7.6 billion and brings the total this year up from £21bn to £22.6bn. The surplus on the financial and other services continues to show substantial improvements.

Share prices drift

New York (Reuters) - Share prices were mixed in early trading yesterday as the New York stock market continued to drift.

The Dow Jones Industrial Average was up by just 0.41 to 1269.72.

First-hour volume reached about 24.03 million shares. Airline issues came into the spotlight following reports that traffic in November had increased by about 8 per cent despite higher fares. Reports said some analysts are recommending the stocks.

Many investors are keeping

WALL STREET

an eye on OPEC meeting in Geneva, where ministers are trying to decide what to do about prices and production.

On the trading floor, American Telephone & Telegraph was the most active issue, down 1/4 to 64 1/4. AT & T when issued followed, off 1/4 to 19 1/4. Diamond Shamrock was third on the list, up 1/4 to 19 1/4.

Gulf Oil, which is engaged in a proxy battle, was 1/4 lower at 43 1/4 on heavy volume.

Social trends survey: pound's purchasing power down to 25p since 1971

Signs of greater affluence despite squeeze

By Graham Searjeant

In the decade between 1961 and 1971, the spending power of the 1961 pound in your pocket fell to 64 pence. That might seem bad enough. But 10 years later, the man with a 1971 pound in his pocket would have found that worth only 27p. By last year, it was worth only a quarter of its 1971 purchasing power.

The great 1970s inflation, apart from furring up the economic tubes, has made it virtually impossible to judge what has really been happening to our incomes and spending. That confusion makes us ever more dependent on reference books of statistics and particularly on the Central Statistical Office's *Social Trends*, a compilation of figures called from the mass of official documents and published in its 14th edition today.

In the decade to 1982, deductions from pay packets rose from 17 per cent to 21 per cent. Even so, in money terms, disposable incomes mushroomed from £42 billion to £174 billion. But after taking out inflation, disposable incomes per head rose a more

modest 12.5 per cent after peaking in 1980.

Some things do not change, the distribution of incomes for instance. In 1982, the lowest paid tenth of full-time male employees received 62 per cent of the median average, virtually the same as in 1970, while the top 10 per cent slightly increased its differentials.

Even among full-timers, men are still paid far more than women, though in percentage terms the gap has narrowed. In 1971 women were on average paid 55 per cent of male earnings. By 1982 that had moved up to 66 per cent.

And far more of us are now being paid by cheque or bank transfer: 53 per cent in 1981 against 39 per cent in 1976 and only 25 per cent in 1969, that partly reflects the switch from factory work to service employment.

Wages are still by far the biggest source of incomes, but social security now provides 13 per cent of incomes as against 9 per cent a decade ago, mainly due to the higher proportion of retired people and, latterly, to the increase in unemployment.

Despite ructions to the contrary, the rich still pay far

more taxes than those on average or low incomes, though the poverty trap remains fully in place as at April, 1983. The low-paid married couple with two children who boosted their income from £75 per week to a year-average £35, would in-

crease their spending power by only 10 per cent.

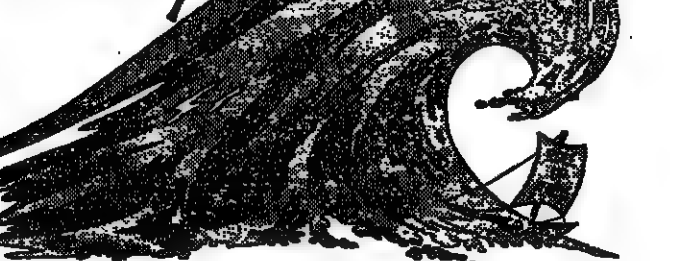
However modestly the average man may be forging ahead, consumption trends show a pattern of increasing affluence that seems to belie the impression of mass destitution.

As ever, we are spending more and more on alcohol, though in the past decade that seems to represent more of a switch from tobacco than an overall dive into drug addiction.

TEN YEARS OF CHANGE

Sources of income (%)	1972	1982	Pattern of spending (Index of consumers' real spending at 1980 prices, 1980=100)	1972	1982
Wages and salaries	57	62	Food	96	99
Self-employment	10	7	Alcohol	79	94
Pent, dividends, interest	6	6	Tobacco	104	86
Private pensions etc	6	7	Clothing and footwear	62	109
Social security	2	13	Purchase of vehicles	116	108
Other current transfers	19	15	Post and telecommunications	59	128
			TV, video etc	54	128
			Newspapers, books etc	106	88
			All consumer spending	89	101
Deductions (% of income)	13	15			
Taxes on income	13	15	Vacuum cleaner	88	95
National insurance cont.	3	4	Refrigerator	70	83
Pension scheme cont.	1	2	Deep-freeze (inc. fridge-freezer)	57	71
			Washing machine	57	71
			Tumble dryer	45	74
Full-time employees' gross earnings (median)	1979	1982	Dishwasher	45	74
Men	225.7	2155.0	Telephone	54	69
Women	214.6	2050.0	Car	54	69
			Central heating	39	69
			Television	39	69
Income tax threshold as proportion of men's earnings	41	38			
Wealth distribution	1971	1982			
Percentage of marketable wealth owned by:					
Top 1% of population	31	23			
Top 5% of population	55	45			
Top 10% of population	66	46			

Abbey National have a haven for roll-up money



Seven Day Account pays 8.25% net!

New taxation laws seem certain to make offshore "roll-up" funds a lot less attractive from January 1st. Now's the time to consider the alternatives. Where else can you enjoy a high return with ready access to your money? If you are a taxpayer, you will have to look a long way to beat the current rate offered by Abbey National's Seven Day Account.

Beats banks, markets, finance houses.

Our rate of 8.25% net of basic rate tax, comfortably exceeds the net return from such commonly recommended "accessible" high-interest deposits as money markets, local authorities and Ceefix-quoted finance houses. As for conventional clearing bank deposits, our net even exceeds their gross!

Only seven days notice.

Whether you consider it as a permanent harbour or temporary haven, the Seven Day Account will welcome you back on shore. Your money is readily available on seven days notice of withdrawal, with no financial penalties whatever for withdrawal.

The maximum investment is £30,000 (£50,000 for joint accounts). The minimum is just £100.

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To: Dept. 7.D.B. Abbey National Building Society, FREEPOST, United Kingdom House, 180 Oxford Street, London W1E 3YJ.

I/we enclose a cheque, numbered _____

to be invested in a Seven Day Account at my/our local branch in _____ I/we understand that the rate may vary.

Full name(s) _____ Title _____

Address _____ Postcode _____

Signature(s) _____ Date _____

ABBEY NATIONAL
SEVEN DAY ACCOUNT

ABBEY NATIONAL BUILDING SOCIETY, 27 BAKER STREET, LONDON W1M 2AA

Group results for the nine months to 30 September 1983

Notes:
1. The nine months' results for both years are unaudited. The results for the year 1982 shown above are an abridged version of the audited accounts of that year which have been delivered to the Registrar of Companies; the Report of the Auditors was unqualified.
2. Taxation for the nine months and year 1982 was reduced by £400,000 and £578,000 respectively by credits for advance corporation tax previously written off.

Matthew Hall House, 101-108 Tottenham Court Road, London W1A 1BT
Telephone: 01-636 3676 Telex: 83784

مَكْنَزٌ مِنَ الْأَصْلِ

INVESTORS' NOTEBOOK • edited by Michael Prest

Granada - printing money at a slower pace

Television companies would prefer these days that nobody had ever mentioned licences to print money, and Granada was no exception. Group pretax profits for the year fell by 7.6 per cent to £43.5m while turnover put on 14 per cent to £521m. Trading surplus, moreover, went up by the same amount to £128m.

Measured by volume, the television and video rental business is the problem. Its share of group profits shed another percentage point last year to 55.4 per cent of £24.7m of trading profits.

But it is clear that long-term growth will come from other areas. The trouble for Granada is that the new profits source is not obvious.

The areas which did show a significant improvement over last year were overseas rentals, bingo and cinemas, and motorway services. The former is particularly promising because the £5.72m trading profit, up from £2.82m, came after absorbing £2.4m of development costs in the United States.

Investment and economies in bingo helped to raise its

contribution from £4.69m to £6.06m.

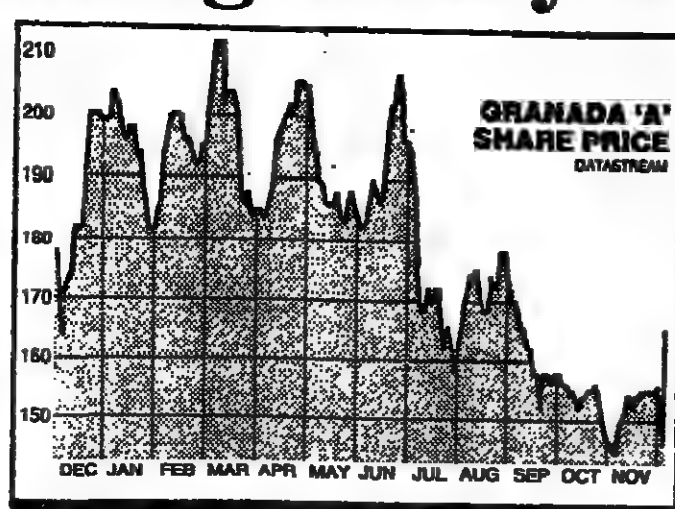
Motorway services almost doubled trading profits to £2.59m - again the fruit of heavy investment in recent years. Granada also benefited from the petrol price war.

But the television business proper, still in a sense the group's flagship, saw its Channel Four subscription go up from £5.7m last year to a considerable £15.6m. After levy relief the actual figure was £3.3m, so the division's trading profit of £6.7m compared with £8.9m was more creditable than it might seem at first sight.

What really upset the figures, however, was the sharp turnaround in the Belgian insurance business. It lost £2m. This is supposed to include all known claims, and shareholders will certainly hope that it is so.

In the end, earnings per share fell only slightly to 12.5p, and this doubtless encouraged the directors to raise the final dividend by 10 per cent to 3.7p net.

The full payout of 5.8p, up 6 per cent, is covered 2.1 times and yields a very fair 5 per cent.



Pilkington

Pilkington's strong progress in the first half, during which pretax profits rose by 90 per cent to £30.4m, disguises the continuing, if diminishing, losses, incurred on the core British operations. If the company's version of current cost accounting is accepted, the shortfall in this country was £1.1m. But of that total £7.2m was

redundancy and pension cost, a figure which may be bigger in the second half. Despite the weakness of demand and foreign competition encouraged by the resilience of sterling against European currencies, especially in the flat glass market, the trading position improved from a loss of £12.7m to a loss of £3.9m.

favourable indicator, and Pilkington has restored its market share to 55 per cent.

Overseas, however, the picture is brighter. Libbey-Owens-Ford in the US contributed £4.6m, and the South African, Swedish and, oddly enough, Argentine companies did well. But below the line, this imbalance between Britain - where it must be admitted the specialist electro-optical, optical and cement glasses are performing solidly - and overseas generates tax problems. After £25.6m in tax, of which £23.5m was incurred abroad, the attributable net loss was £1.8m.

The result was a retained loss of £10.3m, and a loss per share of 0.5p. Nevertheless, this is a distinct advance on last year's retained loss of £15.5m or 3.9p a share, and coupled with a 27 per cent increase in turnover to £578m, supports the maintained 5p net dividend. On the 10p fall in the share price to 238p, the yield is 6.3 per cent.

Crystallate

Mr John Leworthy, chairman of the electronic component

and equipment manufacturers Crystallate Holdings, does not like debt. That fact may well determine the group's decision about selling the recently acquired china business Royal Worcester. The £24m battle has left the group with £5m of Worcester debt and £9m of Crystallate loan stock - which if it becomes a rights issue if a sale is made - both of which Mr Leworthy could do without.

But Crystallate has been unable to value that side of Worcester's business because it has yet to locate the structure of the diversified businesses. Certainly, potential bidders have not been slow to make approaches including the present managements.

Not surprisingly, Crystallate easily beat the profit forecast made at the time of the bid battle. Pretax profits are up 34 per cent to £3.2m on a turnover up from £20.7m to £23.8m. The final dividend is raised from 1.54p to 2.54p, making a total pay-out for the year of 3.25p.

The shares are back to nudging the year's peak of 192p at 186p, up 7p to yield 2.5 per cent.

COMMODITIES

LONDON COMMODITY PRICES		LONDON GOLD FUTURES MARKET	
Rubber in £2 per tonne		US \$ per oz.	
Coffee, arabica, upper in pounds per	400.10-401.00	Dec 83	400.10-401.00
Cocoa, cocoa, upper in pounds per	400.00-401.00	Jan 84	400.00-401.00
Gas-oil in US \$ per barrel ton.	400.00-401.00	Feb 84	400.00-401.00
Oil in US \$ per barrel ton.	400.00-401.00	Mar 84	400.00-401.00
Oil in US \$ per barrel ton.	400.00-401.00	Apr 84	400.00-401.00
Oil in US \$ per barrel ton.	400.00-401.00	May 84	400.00-401.00
Oil in US \$ per barrel ton.	400.00-401.00	Jun 84	400.00-401.00
Oil in US \$ per barrel ton.	400.00-401.00	Jul 84	400.00-401.00
Oil in US \$ per barrel ton.	400.00-401.00	Aug 84	400.00-401.00
Oil in US \$ per barrel ton.	400.00-401.00	Sep 84	400.00-401.00
Oil in US \$ per barrel ton.	400.00-401.00	Oct 84	400.00-401.00
Oil in US \$ per barrel ton.	400.00-401.00	Nov 84	400.00-401.00
Oil in US \$ per barrel ton.	400.00-401.00	Dec 84	400.00-401.00
Oil in US \$ per barrel ton.	400.00-401.00	Jan 85	400.00-401.00
Oil in US \$ per barrel ton.	400.00-401.00	Feb 85	400.00-401.00
Oil in US \$ per barrel ton.	400.00-401.00	Mar 85	400.00-401.00
Oil in US \$ per barrel ton.	400.00-401.00	Apr 85	400.00-401.00
Oil in US \$ per barrel ton.	400.00-401.00	May 85	400.00-401.00
Oil in US \$ per barrel ton.	400.00-401.00	Jun 85	400.00-401.00
Oil in US \$ per barrel ton.	400.00-401.00	Jul 85	400.00-401.00
Oil in US \$ per barrel ton.	400.00-401.00	Aug 85	400.00-401.00
Oil in US \$ per barrel ton.	400.00-401.00	Sep 85	400.00-401.00
Oil in US \$ per barrel ton.	400.00-401.00	Oct 85	400.00-401.00
Oil in US \$ per barrel ton.	400.00-401.00	Nov 85	400.00-401.00
Oil in US \$ per barrel ton.	400.00-401.00	Dec 85	400.00-401.00
Oil in US \$ per barrel ton.	400.00-401.00	Jan 86	400.00-401.00
Oil in US \$ per barrel ton.	400.00-401.00	Feb 86	400.00-401.00
Oil in US \$ per barrel ton.	400.00-401.00	Mar 86	400.00-401.00
Oil in US \$ per barrel ton.	400.00-401.00	Apr 86	400.00-401.00
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Oil in US \$ per barrel ton.	400.00-401.00	Nov 86	400.00-401.00
Oil in US \$ per barrel ton.	400.00-401.00	Dec 86	400.00-401.00
Oil in US \$ per barrel ton.	400.00-401.00	Jan 87	400.00-401.00
Oil in US \$ per barrel ton.	400.00-401.00	Feb 87	400.00-401.00
Oil in US \$ per barrel ton.	400.00-401.00	Mar 87	400.00-401.00
Oil in US \$ per barrel ton.	400.00-401.00	Apr 87	400.00-401.00
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Oil in US \$ per barrel ton.	400.00-401.00	Nov 87	400.00-401.00
Oil in US \$ per barrel ton.	400.00-401.00	Dec 87	400.00-401.00
Oil in US \$ per barrel ton.	400.00-401.00	Jan 88	400.00-401.00
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Oil in US \$ per barrel ton.	400.00-401.00	Sep 88	400.00-401.00
Oil in US \$ per barrel ton.	400.00-401.00	Oct 88	400.00-401.00
Oil in US \$ per barrel ton.	400.00-401.00	Nov 88	400.00-401.00
Oil in US \$ per barrel ton.	400.00-401.00	Dec 88	400.00-401.00
Oil in US \$ per barrel ton.	400.00-401.00	Jan 89	400.00-401.00
Oil in US \$ per barrel ton.	400.00-401.00	Feb 89	400.00-401.00
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Oil in US \$ per barrel ton.	400.00-401.00	Jan 93	400.00-401.00
Oil in US \$ per barrel ton.	400.00-401.00	Feb 93	400.00-401.00
Oil in US \$ per barrel ton.	400.00-401.00	Mar 93	400.00-401.00
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Oil in US \$ per barrel ton.	400.00-401.00	Dec 93	400.00-401.00
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Oil in US \$ per barrel ton.	400.00-401.00	Mar 98	400.00-401.00
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Oil in US \$ per barrel ton.	400.00-401.00	Sep 00	400.00-4

Mr Hugo Croft, the managing director who set up the company in 1967, close to both the barley-producing areas and Scottish Highlands distilleries, said: "Having struggled through the dramatic demand downturn in 1980, we saw no reason to let our healthy company go."

The placing capitalizes the company at £12m.

مَكْنَزٌ مِنَ الْأَصْلِ

Champion upset as Miss Durie ignores respect

From John Ballantine, Melbourne

From Jo Durie's close shot at victory to Martina Navratilova's paragonous attack on Miss Durie as "disrespectful to the players" to Ivan Lendl's too, it was all happening in the quarter-finals of the Australian Open here at historic, flabbergasted Kooyong.

Miss Durie, who excitedly had taken the first set 6-4 from Miss Navratilova when rain stopped play on Tuesday night, lost the second set but broke service with some full-blooded drives to lead 3-1 in the third. But she double faulted twice to one game and was 3-4 down.

"I'm totally shocked and surprised, and it upset me to hear she had been saying those things," said Miss Navratilova. "She's never beaten Chris (Lloyd) or Andrea (Jaeger) and is still not even ranked in the top 10 on the computer" (this proved wrong when new world rankings today made Miss Durie No 8).

"After our match was halted by rain several players came up and said 'you've got to beat her now'," we heard on Miss Navratilova's radio. "Maybe she's trying to make herself believe something in the hope it will happen."

This last remark, I believe, is part of the truth and anyway there is nothing wrong in a competitor "psyching herself up". Miss Navratilova herself indulged in some cocky positive thinking not long ago about expecting to be regarded as one of the great players of history and, in consequence, Mrs Lloyd dished out some of the same verbal rubbish that today Miss Navratilova spooned out to Miss Durie.



Jo Durie shows the belief that yesterday shook Martina Navratilova in Australia

Kriek loses title grip

Melbourne (Agencies) — Johan Kriek, men's singles champion here for the last two years, was beaten yesterday by Mats Wilander in the Australian Open quarter-finals. Wilander, a former French Open champion won 6-3, 6-4, 7-6 to earn a semi-final match with John McEnroe.

Wilander used his unerring accuracy and patience from the baseline to frustrate the speedy little South African-born American. The Swede, who leads his country's Davis Cup squad to meet Australia in the final later this month, hurried to a 3-0 lead in the opening set after clinching a break in the first game. Kriek broke back in the seventh game but Wilander replied immediately with a service break to recapture the lead.

It was Kriek's first appearance on the centre court this year. All his matches had been held in the outside courts until yesterday. Kriek had complained that he always seemed to get "the raw end of the deal". He vowed that he would never return for the event.

McEnroe showed his authority blizzing the unseeded Australian, Wally Masur, 6-2, 6-1, 6-2 in another quarter-final.

YACHTING

People are frantic to sail the Atlantic

By John Nickolls

The next single-handed transatlantic race, which starts from Plymouth on June 2 next year, has been heavily over-subscribed. Organized by the Royal Western Yacht Club and sponsored by the Observer and the radio station Europe 1, entries have been limited to 100, after more than twice that number originally applied.

More than a quarter (27) of the starters will be Americans, the next most numerous will be 23 Frenchmen and women, followed by 19 British. The race was last held in 1980, when the American winner, Phil Weld, set a new record for the passage to Newport of 17 days 23 hours and 12 minutes.

Weld will not be defending his trophy. Now aged 69, he considers he is too old to compete with both the North Atlantic and his rivals in what is becoming an increasingly competitive race.

The largest class will also be the biggest (43-60 ft long) and include several boats built specially for the race. Most of them are multi-hulls, which will be expected to lead the way across and, by winning, justify the expense to their sponsors.

To celebrate their company's 100th anniversary, the BOC Group is to sponsor a second single-handed race round the world. The first race, which ended earlier this year, attracted 17 starters, and appeared to meet a need for this sort of long distance yachting event. The next race will start from Newport, Rhode Island, in August, 1986.

Only 10 of the original starters completed the first race, three of the yachts were abandoned, though thankfully no lives were lost. In view of the lessons learned, there have been some significant changes to the rules and conditions for the next race. All yachts will have to be fitted with watertight bulkheads and a satellite monitoring transmitter. Size limits have been increased, and are now from 40ft to 60ft.

Philippe Jeantot, who won the first race, intends to go again, and on the strength of his earlier success, he has been provided with a new 60ft catamaran for the single-handed transatlantic race.

SWIMMING

Public demands

on duration

of the race

on the Atlantic

and the Pacific

and the Indian

Oceans

and the Arctic

and the Antarctic

and the Southern

Ocean

and the North

Ocean

and the South

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and the East

Ocean

and the West

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Late imports and Rackemann's withdrawal will help Pakistan

From Ian Brayshaw, Adelaide

Alarm bells ringing in the Pakistani camp have been heard back home and two quality replacements have arrived in Australia in time for the third Test which starts here tomorrow. Their arrival will bolster flagging spirits in the tourists' ranks after an innings defeat in the first Test and further humiliation before being saved by the rain in the second. A confidence-boosting victory over Victoria last weekend and yesterday's withdrawal of Carl Rackemann, Australia's leading wicket-taker in the series have further improved Pakistan's chances.

Rackemann pulled a muscle in his left side in the Sheffield Shield match between Queensland and New South Wales at Sydney last weekend. Although the injury is not serious, Rackemann will not be risked. He has taken 16 wickets in the previous tests at an average of 11.06.

The men flown in from Pakistan at short notice are Sarfraz Nawaz and Saleem Malik. Sarfraz arrived in time to play against Victoria and though he made no great impression, is certain to play in the Test. Malik reached Adelaide only yesterday and his participation will depend upon the fitness of Mansoor Akhtar.

Mansoor broke a finger the day before the second Test in which he was expected to replace an out-of-sorts Wasim Raja in the middle-order. Raja's place appears even less tenable now as he has scored just 185 runs from two innings on the tour. With the exception of Omar, none of the Pakistani batsmen has shown anything in the Tests and Malik's class and enthusiasm may be just what the team needs.

Mudassar Nazir, the opening batsman, must surely be close to making a big Test score - he made a century in each innings against Victoria, bringing his tally of centuries in the state games to five from 10 innings. Zaheer Abbas, on paper the best of the visiting batsmen, has shown little appetite for the task of trying to tame the Australian fast bowling. He underlined this fact last week by saying he will leave the tour immediately the Tests are over, thus missing the lucrative one-day international series against Australia and the West Indies.

On the Aussie Adelaide Oval wicket, there's little to suggest that the Pakistani attack, which battered by Sarfraz, will fare any better than they did in the opening two Tests when Australia batted just once each time for scores of 436-0, declared and 309-7 declared. The performances of Abdul Qadir, the left spinner, have been disappointing with returns of 3-121 and 1-112. He must improve on these analyses if Pakistan are to win the series.

Rackemann's injury assures Dennis Lillee of a position in the side when it originally looked likely he would be twelfth man. Geoff Lawson and Rodney Hogg will open the attack with Lillee first change. Tom Hogan, the left arm spinner, comes into the side for his second Test match. The selectors chose a squad of 13 when Rackemann's injury was brought to their notice and Graeme Wood will now be twelfth man. Wood is still missing from a blow he took on the left foot but is confident he will be fit by tomorrow.

Despite Rackemann's injury everything is looking rosy in the Australian dressing room. They have demoralized their opponents in the opening two Tests.

Imran Khan, Pakistan's captain, arrived in Sydney yesterday, tests of his injured left shin (Reuters reports) He is due to be examined by an orthopaedic surgeon today.

CRICKET

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tests of his injured left shin (Reuters

reports) He is due to be examined

by an orthopaedic surgeon today.

King Richards' revenge on the little princes

Jamshedpur (AFP) — The West Indies took India aback by scoring 333 runs for eight wickets off only 45 overs to win the fourth one-day cricket international against India here yesterday.

India were outplayed in all departments as the West Indies won by 104 runs for their fourth successive victory of this type. "It was a mistake for the Indians to bat in the World Cup," the West Indies team manager, Wes Hall said.

Asked to bat first by the Indian captain, Kapil Dev, the West Indians scored 333 runs for eight wickets in 45 overs, setting a near

Montie Lynch should shortly be cleared to resume his Surrey career as an England-qualified player. After studying legal advice, the test and county Cricket Board have decided they cannot change his status to that of an overseas player even though he is currently on the

Zimbabwe attack succeeds

Moratuwa (AFP) — Zimbabwe held the upper hand at the end of the second day in their three-day match against a Sri Lankan team under-25 side here yesterday. In reply to 221, Zimbabwe's 210 on Tuesday, the Sri Lankans were all out for 146.

Only the Sri Lankan opening batsmen, Susil Fernando (48) and Sanath Kaluperuma (23), made any impression in the first innings. Zimbabwean attack, putting on 75 for the first wicket. A further problem was that the Sri Lankan captain, Guy de Alwis, could not bat because of an injured knee.

SRI LANKA: 146-28. First innings

Sri Lankan batsmen: Susil Fernando 48, Sanath Kaluperuma 23, Mervin Mendis 2, and D. Hettiarachchi 1.

Zimbabwe batsmen: Ian Smith 75, Graeme Wood 21, and others.

West Indies: 333-8 in 45 overs

West Indies batsmen: Kapil Dev 146, and others.

India: 221-10 in 100 overs

India batsmen: Kapil Dev 146, and others.

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-27, 2-348, 3-398, 4-392, 5-394, 6-331, 7-334, 8-334.

U.S. Open Golf: 1-27, 2-348, 3-398, 4-392, 5-394, 6-331, 7-334, 8-334.

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FOOTBALL: STING IN WORLD CUP DRAW FOR HOME COUNTRIES, END OF THE TALE FOR WATFORD IN UEFA CUP

Welsh and Irish gain a chance of vengeance

By Stuart Jones, Football Correspondent

The cobwebs were yesterday blown away from the British championship. A new and unexpected chapter was added to the 100-year-old tournament, which will fade into the history books at the end of this season, when England were paired with Northern Ireland and Scotland with Wales in the draw for the qualifying groups of the 1986 World Cup in Mexico.

England and Scotland, who will continue their own domestic argument, agreed to close the historic event and start looking for fixtures against stronger international opposition. The Irish and the Welsh, angered by the decision, will relish the opportunity that FIFA has now given them to prove their worth.

England and Northern Ireland could both go through from group three. Although Romania, one of the eight nations to reach the finals of the current European championships, represent a dangerous threat, Turkey (even though they beat the Irish some six weeks ago) and particularly Finland must be considered among the weakest sides on the continent.

Statistics can be a misleading guide to the future but England's past record against their four opponents provides a powerful reason for optimism. They have played them in a total of 103 internationals, won 78 of them and have lost only

European qualifying groups

GROUP 1: Poland, Belgium, Greece, Albania

GROUP 2: West Germany, Czechoslovakia, Sweden, Portugal, Malta

GROUP 3: England, Northern Ireland, Romania, Turkey, Finland

GROUP 4: France, Yugoslavia, East Germany, Bulgaria, Luxembourg

GROUP 5: Austria, Hungary, Netherlands, Cyprus

GROUP 6: Soviet Union, Denmark, Ireland, Switzerland, Norway

GROUP 7: Spain, Scotland, Wales, Iceland

33 candidates, 15 berths in final. Italy qualifies as holders.

Watford's children shown up in front of the grown ups

From Clive White, Prague

Sparta Prague.....4
Watford.....0

(Sparta won 7-2 on aggregate)

Watford's children were given an embarrassing hiding by their Czechoslovak superiors in a bitterly cold classroom here yesterday afternoon. That they were going to fail this examination was never in doubt, but we hoped that it would not be quite so hopelessly and painfully.

Their confidence, if they had any, was shattered after just two minutes by a stunning Sparta goal, and from then on their minds and limbs slowly froze as they conceded three more in the first half in the face of a searching and intelligent performance by Sparta in testing conditions.

There was a chilling sensation of déjà vu as Watford naively stood off sturdy, skilful players like Berger, Jarolim and Chovanec, just as they had done in the first leg at Vicarage Road. The opening goal was a replica of Berger's a fortnight ago. This time Chovanec stepped easily around Jarolim and from 25 yards struck a drive with the confidence of a carpenter hanging home his nails. Sherwood, in his green jumper and black tights, as usual and peaceful as a Christmas tree in a snowy setting.

Watford never had a chance to re-group or re-think. Six minutes later Berger floated a free kick and Bezoucka surged forward positively through flimsy challenges to head home. The Czechoslovaks were only warming to their task. A noisy crowd of 33,000 got right behind them, even applauding Czechoslovak throw-ins, though whether or not this was just to keep the blood circulating was

difficult to discern. The firm conditions meant that the ball would often sit up obligingly for a player with the imagination to strike it. Sparta did several times.

They trod their path so confidently that one sensed they had chosen more suitable footwear. But it was all in the mind. Sparta were regularly given space within shooting distance outside the penalty area and their forwards often went unhindered inside it too.



Taylor: put on back

Sherwood knew little about shots from Bezoucka and Jarolim which bounced off him like rubber snowballs.

Watford, who were fielding eight players aged 21 or under, seemed incapable of picking out their front men as they have done so successfully in the past, and Berger and Richardson remained forlorn, icy figures. After half an hour, Chovanec strode forward menacingly from a deep position but resisted a temptation to shoot this time, and instead unselfishly laid off the ball to the nifty Skuhravy, who swivelled to smack the Watford net again.

Six minutes later Jarolim scored after receiving from Berger, again a delicious player. Jarolim nervously, and perhaps not surprisingly, turned his back fearing the worst. Instead Jarolim stepped around him and shot home despite Price's efforts on the line. Watford, to their credit in the face of a blinding snowstorm and a Sparta's relentless pressure, stood their ground in the second half to emerge with a pat on the back from the manager, Graham Taylor.

"When you come up against something bigger, stronger and better than yourselves there's always a chance that this sort of thing can happen," he said.

Sparta Prague: J. Oljaj, J. Bielik, F. Straka, M. Bezoucka, Z. Seany, J. Jarolim, F. Chovanec, S. Griga (sub S. Dostal), V. Calta, T. Skuhravy.

Watford: S. Sherwood, N. Gibbs, N. Price, (sub F. Cassidy), K. Jackson, S. Sims, P. Franklin, N. Callaghan, I. Richardson, J. Barnes, W. Roston, R. Jobson (sub W. Sterling).

Referee: J. Collier (Turkey).

Morley set for Albion

Tony Morley, Aston Villa's former England winger, is set to join West Bromwich Albion today. The fee is likely to be around £100,000.

The Villa manager, Tony Barton said yesterday that the two clubs had "more or less agreed" on the fee.

Norley, who cost Villa £200,000 from Burnley four and a half years ago, would be the fourth member of Villa's 1982 European Cup-winning team to leave the club this year. Albion will be hoping to complete the signing in time for Morley to play in the home game with Queens' Park Rangers on Saturday.



Snowball: Peter Schone of Lokomotiv Leipzig (right) challenges the Sturm Graz captain, Anton Pilcher. Although Leipzig won this home UEFA cup, third round, second leg game 1-0, Sturm Graz won 2-1 on aggregate.

Sportsmanship is preserved on ice

By David Miller

Oxford University.....2
Cambridge University.....2

The clock was put back yesterday. Nobody was arrested at Wembley, the school children yelled at a crescendo which made the lift-man observe that he was pleased to be old enough no longer to have any, and the century anniversary match was an exciting, fluctuating and tidily appropriate draw.

When a few minutes from the end Cambridge were awarded a penalty, for a trip by Craft on Harper, there was a feeling of possible harshness in the decision, but this was happily dissolved when Walsh put the kick to a convenient shoulder height for Rutledge, who took off so early he was almost over the cross-bar before the ball left the spot.

With honourable objectivity, Harper later admitted he would have to tell his great-grandchildren that, on this historic day, even he could say it might not have been a penalty. It would certainly have been inequitable for Oxford to have lost on that one issue.

On a pitch two-thirds of which was still bone hard and giving off a puff of frost flakes every time the ball bounced, the play was of a commendable standard. Oxford dominating the first phase of each half, Cambridge the second. If Cambridge's attack, with Harper and Crook down the flanks supplying able assistance to Aspinwall, was the more fluent and imaginative in close, angled play on such a difficult surface, Oxford's direct running and power regularly threatened a suspect Cambridge defence.

Once Cambridge began accurately to knock the ball around, they reflected the ability suggested by their recent results, and Oxford's two midfield men, Smyth and Edbrooke, found themselves outmanoeuvred by Cambridge's quartet. Marshall was shrewdly switching play with Whyte, Walsh, Crook and

Aspinwall all went reasonably close, and on the half-hour Harper blazed only inches too high from the worst foothold on the pitch.

A minute later, following a header by Harper, Aspinwall headed the equalizer, but approaching half-time it was clear that Pollock would need to be replaced as Oxford pressed again. Knight came out as substitute for the second half, and almost immediately Aspinwall put Cambridge ahead with a perfectly flighted, curling shot over Rutledge.

Yet just when it might have been supposed that Cambridge would take advantage of the end with a better attacking foothold, Oxford, withdrawing forces more into midfield, began to make telling counter-attacks against a defence occasionally caught slow, square and sloppy. After Marshall had headed off the line, Hussell put Oxford level as Ed Brooke back-headed on the near post, and only a desperate tackle by Hudson kept out Grant.

In the last quarter of the match Evans replaced Marshall. Cambridge once more had the edge, Walsh and Evans might have scored - and there was of course the penalty.

OXFORD: K. Rutledge (St. Dunstons, Newcastle-on-Tyne and Western), N. Smyth (St. Dunstons, Newcastle-on-Tyne and Western), M. Aspinwall (St. Dunstons, Newcastle-on-Tyne and Western), J. Harper (St. Dunstons, Newcastle-on-Tyne and Western), J. Pollock (St. Dunstons, Newcastle-on-Tyne and Western), J. Knight (St. Dunstons, Newcastle-on-Tyne and Western), J. Whyte (St. Dunstons, Newcastle-on-Tyne and Western), J. Edbrooke (St. Dunstons, Newcastle-on-Tyne and Western), J. Marshall (St. Dunstons, Newcastle-on-Tyne and Western), J. Crook (St. Dunstons, Newcastle-on-Tyne and Western), J. Walsh (St. Dunstons, Newcastle-on-Tyne and Western), J. Grant (St. Dunstons, Newcastle-on-Tyne and Western), J. Hudson (St. Dunstons, Newcastle-on-Tyne and Western), J. Evans (St. Dunstons, Newcastle-on-Tyne and Western), J. Marshall (St. Dunstons, Newcastle-on-Tyne and Western), J. Crook (St. Dunstons, Newcastle-on-Tyne and Western), J. Walsh (St. Dunstons, Newcastle-on-Tyne and Western), J. 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Closing date Friday 16th December 1983.

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an autonomous registered charity invites applications for the post of:

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The Council provides a focus for voluntary bodies concerned with community, environmental and welfare matters and candidates should have a voluntary experience of administration, including committee work, preferably in a voluntary organisation, and a knowledge of rural areas and their problems. They should be willing to work closely with both voluntary and statutory organisations and be able to take on a leadership role in a wide range of activities, including fundraising and public relations.

Salary will be on the scale £25,000 to £30,000 per annum, and there is a pension scheme.

Further details and application form available from: The Chief Executive, Community Council of Staffordshire, 28 Frome Street, Stafford, Staffordshire, ST16 2LZ. Closing date for applications: Friday 15 January 1984. Interviews to be held week commencing 22 January 1984.

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Apply to: Personnel Officer, The University of Manchester, PO Box 44, Chancellery House, Oxford Road, Manchester, M13 9PL. Telephone: (0602) 74641

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General Appointments

HORIZONS

The Times guide to career development

Museums learn to have a wider reach

John Reeve, head of the education department at the British Museum, happened to mention to art teachers working with West Indian girls that their hair might make a wonderful project. "They agreed, and within days I had to become an instant expert on the subject, down to finding out that heavily hairy Assyrians were probably wearing wigs, the Ancient Egyptians were certainly bald underneath."

The department, currently with four full-time teaching staff, has a mammoth task in interpreting the museum's international treasures. It is running courses this winter in subjects from women in Greece and Rome to Roman Britain, and, for the first time, Korea. Education has become a key word in the museum sector.

The National Trust has an education department, now examining new areas for interpretation through music, dance, film and literature, as well as drama. The House of Commons has an education officer, as have some 300 national, local and independent museums and galleries.

Ironbridge has set up an Institute of Industrial Archaeology with the University of Birmingham, which also provides external courses. Another recent move was the appointment of a former educational television presenter, Pat Keywell, as a mime artist in residence - possibly the first - at Kendal's Brewery Arts Centre. She is producing seasonal cabarets using young and mature talents gleaned from schools and the wider community.

Although the residency is specialist, it is symptomatic of a trend. Museums are setting aside rooms for education, preparing audio-visual displays, and sending out materials to

As museums try to reach out to a wider audience, the demand grows for teachers to bridge the divide, writes Ann Hills

schools. For this work they need staff with appropriate backgrounds. Museums usually come under administration of "leisure" departments, and their teachers are expected to serve the whole community. Pressure has also come from educational establishments to make collections accessible.

The Horniman Museum education department, run by the chairman of the group for Education in Museums (GEM), Dr Elizabeth Goodhue, illustrates the problems and possibilities. The three full-time staff are supplemented by adult education tutors and lecturers in special interests - one does a Saturday recorder workshop.

Lack of funding has held back expansion in the museum education field, despite heavy demand, but there have been other outside sources of finance. These include friends of museums, and sponsorship - BP paid for education materials for the Wellcome collection at the Science Museum. Manpower Services Commission programmes have also helped to create many one and two-year appointments.

John Reeve's career serves as a solid example. From Cambridge, with a history degree, he went to Avon and became a history teacher, eventually developing his own CSE courses based on local historical research. That took him to the Castle Museum in York - "a fascinating collection" -

as teacher, finding himself "in remote valleys on the way to schools with a suit of armour or a Victorian dress in the car". Now he's at a peak in career terms and editors of the Journal of Education in Museums (issue five is due in the spring), published by GEM.

His advice on finding a way into education in museums is aimed mainly at teachers, although anyone from a potter to a naturalist may have marketable skills with some teaching experience. Would-be museum educators should be free-lancing - lecturing or working on holiday projects or evening classes. Other particular knowledge about part of a collection. Funds may be available from education authorities or under government schemes, as for inner cities, for particular sessions.

Appropriate skills can be gained at university. Manchester has a course in the fine and decorative arts. At Leicester University the Department of Museum Studies has been expanded. The main course is a year long. The Institute of Education at University of London has made a study of museums, galleries and the school part of its postgraduate work. This year there's a new diploma course focusing on three major international museums in London.

You can find out more about the field from the Museums Association, which advertises posts in its monthly bulletin, monitors developments, publishes a factsheet on careers in museums and a database on educational and children's activities in museums.

GEM produces literature, from the quarterly newsletter to a handlist of museum education services in the British Isles and membership is open to anyone interested.

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RECEPTIONIST required for a busy London office. Must be friendly, efficient, reliable, and have a good knowledge of the telephone. Salary £5.00 per hour. Please send CV to: The Kensington Recruitment Centre, 100 Kensington Road, London W8 5JL. Tel: 01-271 2777

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